

inside **Soccer**

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NSL club rescue deal shrouded in secrecy



Newcastle KB United & Soccerroo icon Ray Baartz: If the buying consortium is cashed up then Breakers fans can look forward to seeing stars again.

BREAKERS BUY OUT IS NOW IMMINENT

THE Newcastle Breakers board is hopeful of discovering the true identities behind the bid to buy the club at a meeting scheduled for later this week. So far, according to Chairman Bill Collins, the board have been negotiating with a facilitator and have "no idea" who the money men behind the offer might be.

Apparently all that is known is that the group of business men are largely Sydney-based.

A source at the club said the group is thought to number between five and seven people.

However, despite being unaware of the group's make-up Collins told

By Tony Moffitt

Inside Soccer that he would not be surprised if one, or more, Newcastle identities were part of the buy-out group.

"The indications are that local people may be involved," Collins admitted cautiously. "We hope to find out more this week."

The meeting, described by Collins as a 'semi final' discussion comes as speculation increases that an announcement about the take-over is likely to be made before the end of January.

The group have an option that expires in the middle of February

to buy the team. However, if negotiations proceed at their current rate the deal could be concluded well ahead of that deadline.

"Indications I had from the group late last week were that we could expect something to happen prior to February," Collins said.

The identities involved in the group have been shrouded in mystery and a closely guarded secret since the offer was first made some months ago. However, one rumour can be denied.

Collins confirmed that specula-

tion linking Rene Rivkin to the bid was unfounded. "Mr Rivkin is in no way connected to the bid," Collins adamantly said.

However the deal is far from being a certainty although Collins said he felt the probability of everything proceeding as planned was "about eighty percent".

Conditional on the sale was not only the group's satisfaction with the information being provided by the Breakers, it was also conditional on the board's approval of the investors.

"Certainly we want people who have the future of soccer in this region firmly in mind. That's one

of our main considerations," Collins added. "Soccer needs a capital base these days. It's almost a fully professional sport in this country. You can't get away with running raffles and selling lamingtons to supplement sponsorship. You need two million or more in capital before you can be consistently competitive. A group of people with that sort of financial base will ensure the club's future."

Collins also admitted that the group behind the bid for the club have also shown some interest in buying the stadium.

Breakers Stadium was also put on the market some months ago. The interest shown by the group is one of many expressions of interest received by the club.

"Over twenty interested parties have replied to our marketing and advertising package," Collins said.

"We'll be pursuing those interested parties in the coming weeks."

Collins said most of the proposals concerning the stadium were purely investment based, however amongst the submissions were proposals that could include the development of a sports resort linked to accommodation.

Now it's Teddy Bear TV

British newspaper and cable TV company Mirror Group Plc said on Monday it plans to set up a television venture with Scotland's Glasgow Rangers soccer club.

The joint venture, called Rangers Television Ltd, will cover matches at the club's Ibrox stadium, organise coverage of important away games, and develop electronic commerce opportunities, Mirror said in a statement.

Mirror, owner of The Mirror tabloid as well as cable channel Live TV, said it is in talks with several undisclosed broadcasters about developing a Rangers Club TV show.

"Over time, and as the rights become available, the joint venture will start to exploit webcasting, Internet radio and e-business opportunities within the UK and abroad," Mirror said

in a statement, without giving further details.

Mirror's Live TV struck a deal last year with another Scottish soccer team, Edinburgh's Heart of Midlothian, for a local cable TV fanzine featuring match coverage.

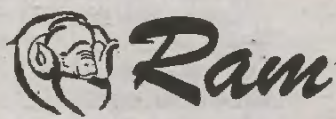
British media companies have been scrambling to strike TV deals with soccer clubs after Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB pay-TV company unveiled a billion dollar bid for top English club Manchester United.

BSkyB has already launched a Manchester United TV channel with Granada Group.

However, BSkyB's plan to buy Manchester United is currently being reviewed by anti-monopoly officials, who are due to report their verdict on the bid on March 12.

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British soccer's 'special' treatment under threat

FIFA President Sepp Blatter has said that the English Football Association's so-called cash-for-votes bribery scandal might endanger Britain's privileges within soccer's world governing body.

English soccer's two leading officials, FA chairman Keith Wiseman and chief executive Graham Kelly, resigned after it was revealed that they had sanctioned a SA\$8.56 million grant to the Welsh FA without the permission of the rest of the executive committee.

In the biggest scandal to hit the FA in its 135-year history, the grant was interpreted as a bribe to get the Welsh FA to vote for Wiseman in a FIFA election.

Britain has a unique position within soccer, having four different identities within FIFA.

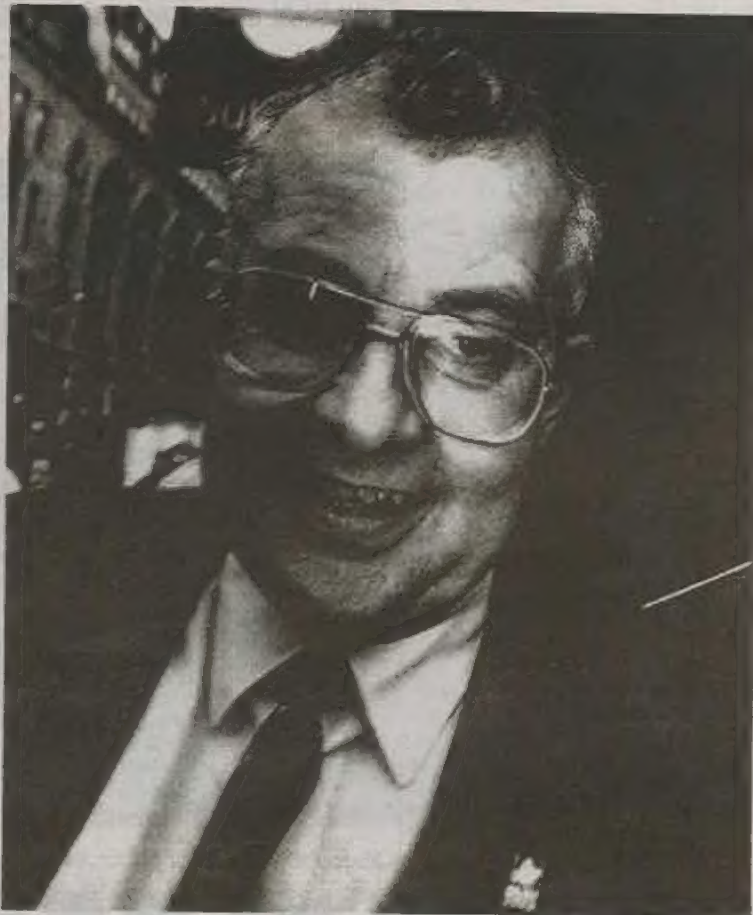
England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own separate soccer federations and play independently.

They also have four of the eight seats on the rule-making International Board and an automatic vice president on the FIFA executive committee.

Now those privileges could be questioned by other FIFA members in the light of the Wiseman-Kelly scandal and Blatter hinted that the issue might get onto the agenda at future meetings of the executive committee.

"I presume that after this England-Wales case, the question will be brought up," the FIFA President said after his recent meeting with IOC President

Juan Antonio Samaranch over World Cup and doping issues.



Keith Wiseman shown leaving Lancaster House in disgrace

Scheinflug tells Pommies to breed their own

By Ted Simmons

National youth coach Les Scheinflug has told English soccer clubs to breed their own players instead of poaching young Australians.

Scheinflug, the national youth coach for more than 20 years, launched a scathing attack on the clubs for trying to persuade young players to renounce Australia and take out English citizenship.

"It's daylight robbery and they're definitely harming Australian soccer," an irate Scheinflug told *Inside Soccer*.

"Our development is better than others and

we are one of the countries that others are looking at.

"It hurts me to know they are dangling temptation in front of our youngsters and in the next few years we could have more than 100 juniors overseas.

"They don't want them to play for Australia, they don't want them to go back home for internationals, they want them on the cheap."

Soccer Australia has released a list of 91 Australians with overseas clubs (see feature) which included 44 in England and the rest spread mainly around Europe.

It also named another

three youngsters who are expected to take up contracts with Middlesbrough, West Ham and Crystal Palace in England.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella is currently overseas talking to the English FA and the world body FIFA and the issue was expected to be discussed.

Scheinflug was just as angry about the attitude of some of the Australian clubs in helping scouts sign players for England.

"Some of our clubs are prepared to take the money and let the kids go and we're looking at agreements and contracts to make sure

we can keep them," he said.

"The English clubs investing here are not doing it to help Australian soccer but to make sure they get the best youngsters.

"They get big money from television so why don't they develop their own youngsters or is the thought too much of having to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for them instead of the low thousands for Australians.

"I'd like to see Leeds go to Liverpool and try to pinch some of their youngsters and see what happens."

Scheinflug was further concerned about the drop in standards

which he believes will occur in England and Australia because of the youth trade.

He said England teams of the future would not be as good because they wouldn't have local players coming through.

And he added that Australia could not lose huge numbers of its youth because it would similarly affect the national teams, the national league and playing standards.

"These backdoor tactics of robbing Australia of its kids has to end. We have to find a way to stop these wolves," Scheinflug said.

Olympic Games chiefs react to Blatter threat

By Stephen Wilson

Track and field could take radical steps - including restricting Olympic competition to athletes 23 and under - if soccer's World Cup becomes a biennial event.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation would protect the "exclusivity" of its world championships to counter any scheduling conflict with the World Cup or the Olympics, a spokesman said in response to FIFA president Sepp Blatter's bid to stage the World Cup every two years instead of four.

If Blatter's project goes through, the biennial track championships could be moved from odd

years to even years to prevent any clash with the World Cup, IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri said.

Such a change would put every other championships in the same year as the Summer Olympics, where track and field is considered the marquee sport.

"If there will be this clash, we will have to protect our world championships," Reineri said by telephone from IAAF headquarters in Monaco.

"We will need to be sure we will be the only event with the best athletes."

"Naturally, the IAAF will study the best way in order to assure the exclusivity of the best

athletes for its world championships."

Reineri wouldn't speculate on how the Olympic competition would be affected.

But he wouldn't rule out suggestions that the IAAF could put a 23-and-under age limit on Olympic events, just as FIFA does for the Olympic soccer tournament.

International Olympic Committee sports director Gilbert Felli said the FIFA proposal was "just an idea" for now and it was premature to speculate on what affect it would have on track and field in the Olympics.

He said there had been no discussions with the IAAF on the matter.

IAAF president Primo

Nebiolo has in the past raised the possibility of restricting Olympic track and field to young athletes.

But the threat never materialised as a serious option, and IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch has largely succeeded in placating Nebiolo.

In a concession to Samaranch, Blatter has promised that the World Cup won't be held in Summer Olympic years.

The 1999 IAAF world championships will be held in Seville, Spain, in August, followed by the 2001 worlds in the Canadian city of Edmonton.

Crook and Poric out as Spirit prepare

By Gordon Dexter and Stuart Bell

Northern Spirit were dealt a blow last week on the eve of their clash with Newcastle Breakers when it was revealed that Ian Crook was out injured once more and new signing Adem Poric would miss the rest of the season as a result of a knee injury sustained against Gippsland.

Ian Crook, one of the most influential figures in the league, hasn't played a full game for Spirit for nearly three months.

Coach Graham Arnold

faces mounting defensive concerns for the home game with Newcastle.

Crook looked to be the answer in central midfield after scoring a spectacular long range equaliser as well as laying on another goal after coming on as substitute in the Spirit's 3-2 national soccer league win over Adelaide Sharks.

And his attacking options could also have added another dimension to a team struggling to find the net, with just 11 goals in 12 games.

The former Tottenham

and Norwich player was forced on the sidelines back in round two when he suffered ankle ligament damage against Perth Glory.

Arnold looks likely to play Soccerroo Robbie Enes in the sweeper role against Marconi on Friday after the player decided last week to remain with the fledgling club until the end of the season.

Enes, a trialist with Germinal Ekeren, will then move to the Belgian first division club.

Coach Arnold is under increasing pressure about

his goal-shy forwards but looks likely to persevere with the pairing of Robbie Slater and Clayton Zane up front with Kresimir Marusic in a supporting role for the big Sydney derby.

"Robbie is doing a great job for me up front and he is enjoying himself up front," Arnold said.

"I knew Clayton would come good (after breaking his scoring drought against Adelaide) and it wouldn't surprise me to see the goals flow from here on in."

Referees under fire - again

FURIOUS Sydney United coach David Mitchell accused South Melbourne players of deliberately trying to get his players sent off in the at times spiteful clash with South Melbourne.

New Zealand international Vaughan Coveny's 52nd minute header, his seventh goal of the season, was enough to seal the win and keep South at the top of the ladder - but the match was more notable for the number of bookings handed out by referee Mark Shield.

Shield sent off two Sydney United players as well as booking a further three players for the visitors as well as four from the home side.

It was all too much for Mitchell, himself booked after coming on late as a substitute, who claimed after the game that the referee had been "sucked in" by the South Melbourne players.

The complaints from the Sydney

United player boss is just another in a long string from an increasingly vociferous coaching fraternity.

This season a number of Ericsson Cup coaches have lashed out at referees in the press.

Recent criticisms come from John Kosmina, Manfred Schaefer, Eddie Krncevic and Wollongong assistant and former Soccerroo keeper, Ron Corry.

"After every foul the South Melbourne players had their arms up, screaming and yelling all over the place," said Mitchell of the South Melbourne match.

"It was a disgrace. They're a better team than that and the referee got sucked in basically."

Mitchell also accused South Melbourne keeper Mike Petkovic of deliberately kicking him in off the ball incident in the dying stages as players from both sides seemed intent on "evening up."

The fiery Sydney United coach ex-

changed heated words with Petkovic after the incident and was furious that referee Shield took no action.

"It should have been a penalty and a sending off," Mitchell said.

South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou refused to buy into the row only saying only the match deteriorated into a "silly game" in the second half.

"He's entitled to his own opinion," Postecoglou said of Mitchell.

"I just think he is just disappointed with the result."

In last week's *Inside Soccer* there was call from a Melbourne Nights official for referee Wayne Dade to be removed from the NSL panel after an incident in a recent Melbourne Knights v Marconi league match.

Under current ASF rules referees are not allowed to make public comments to the press about games in which they officiate.

World Cup profits

The World Cup soccer finals in France last year made a pre-tax profit of 350 million francs (about \$A95 million) sources close to the French government have said.

Following taxes and payment to the European Union of a fine for irregularities in the sale of match tickets, the net profit should be about 200 million francs (\$A55 million) they said.

The World Cup organising com-

mittee was dissolved today (Tuesday January 12) exactly six months after France beat Brazil 3-0 in the final, opening proceedings for the distribution of profits.

The state, which invested about five billion francs (\$A1.3 billion) in infrastructure for the tournament, the French Football Federation, the sports ministry and organising officials are all looking for a share.

Knights tribunal

SOCCER fans in Newcastle are still fizzing at Soccer Australia's failure to reach a decision in the recent 'dressing room trashing' incident after a match between Newcastle Breakers and Melbourne Knights.

Amid claims of racial abuse to Knights defender Ransford Banini the Knights players have been charged with smashing up the visitors' dressing room, with damage to shower heads, walls and lockers reported by Newcastle officials.

"From today on, the weekly red card will be devoted to Soccer Australia and the Melbourne Knights until the dressing room farce is settled

and two things happen," said Andrew Waugh in the Newcastle Herald.

"Firstly, SA has to get its act together and hand down a verdict on the 'alleged' trashing of the Breakers Stadium away-team dressing room on Friday, December 18.

"Secondly, the Knights have to apologise to the Breakers for their childish antics - the apology should have come immediately after the incident but there still hasn't been a peep from the Melbourne club."

A tribunal was scheduled for the week after the incident but to date Soccer Australia has not reported on its findings.

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Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

WHAT DO OLD footballers do when they stop playing? Well, it seems that one thing that they don't do is watch any more senior soccer – at least not in Australia.

I had a long and interesting chat with a former NSL player during the week and he mentioned how he had left his last NSL club in "fairly acrimonious terms, but then that is fairly normal."

But why does it have to be that way?

Surely footballers are the prize asset of any club, after all nobody that I know (or want to know) comes to a game to see the club's directors.

I'm not knocking the work of directors, God knows without their enthusiasm the game would still be at the stage where NSL players get paid a lousy \$100 a game – and even although there ARE NSL players currently getting pinnacles like that, that is no the norm.

No, it seems that by the time an Ericsson Cup player is ready to hang up his boots he has just had enough.

If you think I am wrong then how many former stars do YOU see at your local NSL club?

Not too many, I bet.

And rarely, if ever, does a player either retire or transfer on good terms, terms whereby he would feel comfortable at going back to his old club.

Sad, isn't it.

At some European clubs they give former players a lifetime free pass and invitations to watch the game from the chairman's boss are frequent.

Surely that is the kind of VIP treatment our former stars deserve.

THE well publicised plans to promote the World Cup every two years instead of the current set up of four are nothing more than a cheap publicity stunt by Herr Blatter.

I am getting totally fed up reading stories about his latest stunt.

The trouble is that they re all good copy.

But how long will it be before the general football fan won't even take the time to read them.

It would seem that Herr Blatter, having gotten himself totally on the wrong sides of Oceania (I'm sure he's not over concerned about that one), UEFA and Asia is grasping at straws.

It was interesting to read that he talks about "four continents" taking their turn at staging the World Cup as a principle reason for the insane and totally thoughtless proposal to stage the world's showcase sporting event every two years.

I seem to remember him telling Soccer Australia that they should submit a bid to host a future World Cup – wouldn't that make it FIVE continents and I'm not even going to mention the obvious geography lesson that South and North America are two SEPARATE continents.

Herr Blatter has done a good job of shooting himself in the foot with this one and it will be very

interesting to see how he extricates himself from the obvious danger of a committee official blabbing his own thoughts at every step.

Is this just not another turn in the feud with the European nations who so violently opposed his bid for FIFA supremacy?

I just cannot for the life of me imagine the Euro super clubs allowing him to get away with it.

On the one hand he is saying that there should be less games played and on the other he wants to increase, or maybe that should read control, international competition.

But the World Cup every two years does have a lot of spectator appeal although you might think that having too much ice cream is over indulgence.

However, can you imagine the problems that Soccer Australia, and other associations also, would have in prising their stars away from Europe on an almost continual basis?

The fact that it would increase our chances of ever qualifying for another World Cup final isn't a bad one to chew over but I wouldn't hold my breath.

IN THE PAST I have been as fierce a critic of Soccer Australia as anyone.

My main gripe is that too few people in the so-called corridors

of power know anything about the game.

I can't believe that there aren't miles of former players, back to that one again, who can't fill administrative roles at clubs and federations.

Having said that I take my hat off to the ASF media department.

They are giving the press the best service it has seen in years.

It has been some time since the simple things have been provided without complaint.

I can even remember a former media officer who actually told me that it wasn't his job to provide a scores and results service.

No, things have improved dramatically since then and the two main workers, Rozanna Bozabal and Jason Crowle, deserve a mention in dispatches.

That doesn't mean that everything in the garden is rosy but credit where credit is due.

I am sure that time will provide me with a critical comment in the future so it is good to balance the books while the chance presents itself.

WATCH out for a feast of Olyroo action over the next eighteen months. It looks as if our Under 23s will be in almost constant action as they prepare for the Sydney 2000 Games.

That is good news for the regional fans too as the soccer bandwagon rolls around the less glamorous spots.

But centres like Morwell need to get out and support the Green and Gold if they are to get a repeat international.

Hopefully, they will do just that and put the big cities to shame.

Not A One Off

WHEN Perth Glory were admitted to the NSL few could have imagined what a dramatic and profound impact they would have on the league and soccer in general.

While it is always very risky making predictions about Australian soccer the events now unfolding are the most significant since 1957.

Then the rebel NSW Soccer Federation usurped the old NSW Soccer Association and in the process changed Australian soccer forever.

Glory's surprise rise to prominence was at first dismissed by cynics as an aberration or one day wonder.

Carlton's failure at the turnstiles only seemed to confirm this viewpoint.

Enter Northern Spirit, the most hyped and ridiculed new Sydney NSL club of all time.

Despite indifferent results and an unattractive style of football the crowds keep coming in numbers that most other NSL clubs can only dream about.

Germany in with World Cup shot

Germany's bid chief Franz Beckenbauer believes the race to stage the 2006 World Cup finals is very close with Germany in with "a good chance".

"There is a good chance that the 2006 World Cup will take place in Germany," Beckenbauer told weekly Sport Bild in an interview released last week.

"England declared itself early but we have caught up," said the Bayern Munich president.

"At the moment we have the same chance as Brazil and South Africa."

Germany officially

declared its bid last November and added weight to it the following month by appointing Beckenbauer, World Cup-winning captain in 1974 and triumphant coach in 1990, as head of the bid.

"Getting the World Cup finals would be the best present you could possibly imagine for German football," Beckenbauer said.

The legendary libero was also quoted as saying he was in favour of FIFA president Sepp Blatter's idea to stage the World Cup every two years instead of the current four-year rotation.

Something is happening to soccer in Australia and it appears to be much more than just a transient

Your WRITE

YOU CAN air your view on any subject relating to soccer by replying to *Inside Soccer* at Fax: (02) 4285 7481 Email: insidesoccer@hotmail.com You must include a day time telephone number for verification purposes, if necessary, and letters should be kept under 400 words. All correspondence must include your name and address – although we will print letters under nom-de-plumes. Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

thing.

R Mellor
Bondi NSW

Come Home ET
AUSTRALIANS really are a bastard race.

We have the most successful national coach in the history of our game and all we do is give him a bagging.

Eddie Thomson achieved outstanding results not just on the scoreboard but in bringing many of the brilliant youngsters through our system.

First there was Ned Zelic and lately it has been Harry Kewell.

The thing that they have in common is that Eddie Thomson gave them their first caps for Australia.

Are we too big that we could not extend the olive branch and bring back the greatest ever Aussie coach – at both club and national

level?

I hope not because I* for one would like to see ET come home.

J Stanley
Waverley NSW

Breath of Fresh Air
INSIDE Soccer is a breath of fresh air.

But I am glad you dropped the page 3 bunnies – they were just TOO much.

For balanced and informative writing you are clearly the leader in the Australian game.

I have every copy ever produced, including the other series.

Last week's article on Stuart Lovell by Fred Legget was excellent.

It was precise, well linked and informed me of something that I never knew – that he is as much an Aussie as I am.

A Stipic
Elizabeth SA

Jesus Arrested

Jesus Gil y Gil, mayor of Spain's southern holiday town Marbella and president of Atletico Madrid football team, was jailed on Thursday for embezzlement and falsifying documents, state radio reported.

A Marbella judge refused bail and Gil was escorted by the Civil Guard to Alhaurin de la Torre jail in the southern province of Malaga. He was accused of illegally funnelling 450 million pesetas (\$3.17 million) of Marbella Town Hall funds to the Madrid

club and of falsifying documents.

Gil's lawyer denied the accusations and said he would appeal.

"I am calm. I'm going to jail. This brings to a close the campaign against me," Gil said.

The accusations revolve around publicity contracts between Marbella and the first division club.

Atletico have had the name of the town on the front of their jerseys in recent seasons.

WANTED COACH TOLLAND SOCCER CLUB INC. WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

Tolland Soccer Club are seeking expressions of interest for the position of coach for the 1999 season.

Tolland Soccer Club is one of the largest soccer clubs in the Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association which includes teams from throughout the Riverina.

Tolland Soccer Club's 1st Grade and Reserve Grade teams have been Wagga Wagga & District Amateur Soccer Association Grand Finalists consistently over the years and have also over a number of years competed in the Waratah Cup competition having made it through to the 4th round in 1997.

Applications or enquiries are to be directed to Mr Kerry Pascoe:
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HI AND WELCOME to my weekly look at the round ball code.

With so much happening on a week to week basis don't forget to 'bookmark' this column.

You'll catch interesting news, views, facts, trivia and some great competitions and prizes.

All of this supported by REAL SOCCER – celebrating 10 consecutive years on the Australian soccer scene.

INJURED SOCCEROO Matthew Bingley is free to negotiate any contractual deals with Australian clubs on his own behalf.

Zenith Football Management's Chris Tanner contacted me to deliver this news saying: "Bingley appears to have turned his back on a soccer and media career with Perth Glory to link up with a Sydney club as he wishes to be close to family and friends."

Tanner added that Northern Spirit appears to be the leading candidate.

Not to be outdone Zenith will shortly announce the addition of a high profile Sydney based player to their books together with three talented Westfield Sports High School graduates.

Keep an eye on this space.

THE PLAYER drain continues unabated.

The lure of the lira, pound, drachma, franc and soon to be Eurodollar is understandably overwhelming.

Klaus Okon senior reliably informs *Wheatley's World* that former Fairfielder Christian Vieri will haul home the equivalent of 6 million Australian dollars 'netto' in the current playing season.

Seems a good reason to keep training!!!!



Con Boutisianis: the sweetest of left footers

VIERI HAS one of the most feared left footers in the business as well as a vertical jump the envy of many number 9.

Thankfully the left footers union was alive and kicking last weekend when Wolongong faced Olympic.

Down the Wolves left channel was Cecoli, Chipperfield and Spencer.

Opposing them was Cardozo, the league's deadliest sharpshooter with the Carl brothers, Leo and Nick (the plaster comes off his right foot next week) also bolstering the number of left footers about.

Add to the list Adelaide's Armour, Marconi's Smith and Renaud, Brisbane's bombshell Meredith and Spirit's Bilokapic and we have some of the sweetest strikers of the ball in the land.

And I nearly forgot the power and glory of John Markovski and Con Boutisianis ... the two best in the business from the wild west.

REAL REWARDS – the chance for your club or school team to win free soccer balls from the 1999 REAL soccer range is on again.

The popular scheme, now in its third year, is supported by REAL'S soccer stockists right around Australia.

With over 50 current clubs on the REAL REWARD'S list it's time for your team to sign up.

For all the information and a copy of this year's superb full colour catalogue simply call 02 9557 5522 in business hours, Mon-

day to Friday.

Free soccer balls – seems too good to be true.

SOME CONTROVERSY recently over ABC TV's ratings for the live coverage of Sunday night Ericsson up action at 5.00pm around the country.

Apparently the forces of negative publicity are as strong as ever where round ball action is concerned.

Thankfully your ABC has chosen a strong, weekend, live, consistent time slot with nationwide coverage for all Australians from Cairns to Caringbah to Kalgoorlie – at no cost.

ABC statistics do have the Australian population at 18.5 million and the 'disputed' cumulative audience for the nation can be substantiated.

Any doubters should just drop me a line at *Inside Soccer*.

BY THE WAY, coming up on ABC is a superb month of encounters, a sizzling series of four Sydney contenders to go under the microscope.

Round 15 Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City

Round 16 Marconi v Brisbane Strikers

Round 18 Northern Spirit v Sydney United

Round 19 Sydney United v Adelaide City

Lots of action and several decisive derbies

**WHEATLEY'S
WORLD**



- * Soccer Balls
- * Shinguards
- * Accessories
- * Goalkeeping Gear

***is ready to kick off its 10th
consecutive year on the
Australian Soccer Scene***

New league record a prospect for Friday

By Stuart Bell

A dash of luck and using the right formula are the secret ingredients being prepared by Marconi coach Frank Farina as his side faces up to another major challenge.

Last weekend Marconi travelled to Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday to tackle Adelaide City, the meanest defence in the league.

Before that game City had conceded 11 goals in 12 games and trailed third-placed Marconi by four points.

"Marconi has scored quite a few goals this season but some luck and players following instructions will help," said the Stallions boss.

"I don't have any secret tricks lined up for games, it just comes down to the players."

Marconi has only lost twice this season

despite the problems Farina has encountered with injuries and suspensions.

And he still has a long injury list with Brad Maloney, Ante Covic, Brendan Renaud and Pan-Keun Kim all out of action.

Covic had the plaster removed from his broken wrist last week and Maloney's injured leg is slowly healing.

Farina was amused at reports that his team appeared unsettled in their 3-3 draw at home against Wollongong.

"In the first seven weeks we were very settled and it showed, a few weeks ago we were called physical and now we're unsettled," he said.

"Any unsettled appearance has come from recent injuries and suspensions because we haven't been at full strength for the past six weeks.

"Against Wollongong, we went to sleep for 30 minutes and rightly got punished."

And on Friday night Marconi travel across town to North Sydney Oval where they play new guys Northern Spirit for the first time.

It is a game neither side wants to lose and also marks the first time that former Socceros Farina and Graham Arnold, coaching the respective teams, will face up to each other in Australian football since the 1980s.

Northern Spirit officials are expecting a record breaking crowd for the match billed as the 'Battle of Sydney'.

"Our ground officially holds 22,000 but in the first match we played here we had to close the gates at 18,000 with still a few thousand outside," a Northern Spirit official told *Inside Soccer*.

"This game could well see a new Australian league record."

Spirit also has a catalogue of injuries which will see Marconi enter the game as slight favourites.

This weekend's matches mark the half way mark in the Ericsson Cup and with South Melbourne off with a bye it is a chance for Perth Glory to recapture the leader's spot.

Perth is at home to the inconsistent Wollongong Wolves.

Canberra Cosmos are hoping that lucky talisman Gordon Hunter helps them to a first point away to Gippsland Falcons.

Ironically, Hunter's first game for last season was against Gippsland and he was outstanding as the Cosmos held on for a 0-0 draw which broke their then record run of outs.

The Blatter Bomb

The soccer world reacts to FIFA boss Sepp Blatter's idea for a two yearly World Cup

By Alan Baldwin and Mitch Phillips

FIFA president Sepp Blatter's proposal for a World Cup every two years was likened to a bomb on Tuesday for the shock waves it sent through soccer but it may turn out to be more of a warning shot.

"The Blatter Bomb," declared France's *L'Equipe* sports newspaper, as

pected the timing to be more aimed at International Olympic Committee (IOC)

president Juan Antonio Samaranch, who met the FIFA boss at the soccer body's headquarters last week. A FIFA spokesman said the structure of the Olympic soccer tournament and anti-doping measures were among items on the agenda.

"It's a pretty major warning shot across the

open Olympic soccer tournament, rather than one limited to national under-21 teams.

Blatter wants soccer to stay in the Olympics but with different teams to those in national or world championships.

"I would greatly regret it if the Olympic family didn't want us any more," he told the Swiss *Blick* newspaper.

There has also been some disagreement

soccer's big names argued the pros and cons. Some, such as UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner, suggested Blatter had reopened an old battle between the European and world bodies over the sporting calendar, money and power on the global field.

"The squabble between UEFA and FIFA is just starting up again," Aigner told the Swiss daily *Le Matin*.

However, others sus-

bows of the IOC," said World Soccer magazine's executive editor Keir Radnedge.

"There is some disagreement between FIFA and the IOC so you can expect to see a bit of posturing."

"Blatter is saying 'look, if you really want to make things difficult we'll have a World Cup in an Olympic year and see how you like that,'" said Radnedge.

The IOC wants an

over a unified doping code which the IOC want to introduce.

Blatter said when he put forward his plan that times were changing rapidly and the World Cup should adapt.

His proposal, which was emphasised as a personal one rather than a FIFA plan, would boost national teams in the face of increasingly powerful and cosmopolitan clubs.

Samaranch and Blatter: walking the corridors of power



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Blatter suggested that a scaled down World Cup could be held in 2004 to celebrate FIFA's centenary with full tournaments to be staged every two years from 2008.

He told Blick on Tuesday that money was not the big issue.

"It would not upset me if we received only 1 billion Swiss francs (\$730 million) for the final rounds in 2008 and 2010 I want the change in football out of love, not because of the money."

Worldwide television rights alone for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups will bring in \$1.8 billion.

Radnedge detected a clear political agenda behind the declarations.

"I think part of it is FIFA's concern that if it lets the international calendar get out of control, it loses control of the world game," he said.

The journalist, who made headlines with an interview with Blatter this time last year, said he took the whole furore "slightly with a pinch of salt", but others were more concerned.

"Certainly, Mr Blatter is well known for having ideas but before launching his plan, wouldn't it have been better if he had advised us first? But he didn't even consult us..." Aigner told the French language *Le Matin*.

FIFA general secretary Michael Zen Ruffinen said qualification for the new-look Cup could be decided by existing continental competitions and this would mean fewer matches.

"There are currently 700 qualifying matches for the World Cup. They will no longer take place because the existing continental championships will be taken into account."

UEFA, who run the lucrative Champions League, opposed Blatter's election last summer in a two-man race between the Swiss and their boss Lennart Johansson.

The Swede has deemed the idea of a 2004 Cup, which would clash with a scheduled European championship, to be "unacceptable" while UEFA officials said the lack of World Cup qualifiers would hit some smaller countries

hard.

"I fear something which we are already seeing - fatigue and a sense that the coinage is being debased," said Aigner.

"Economically, the market is not limitless. We can't go on stretching it forever and hope to multiply the profits."

He added: "In all this, I think, the great loser is the spectator, whom FIFA has forgotten about. In fact, everything we do should be acceptable to the consumer and be in his interests."

And FIFA president Sepp Blatter has rebutted criticism from other soccer leaders over his call for the World Cup finals to be staged every two years.

"We are living in fast and rapid times and therefore should adapt our World Cup to our times," Blatter said in an interview with Reuters Television.

UEFA has said it was firmly opposed to the idea, which would force the European championships to follow suit, and they were backed by their counterparts in Asia.

Blatter said in the interview that at pres-

ent it took 16 years for the finals to be staged in each of the four continents and the proposed plan would also

be a boost for national team football.

"There are enough dates available. What we need is a coordination of the calendar," Blatter said.

He said with proper organisation it would not mean even more games for soccer players.

"We want to protect our players and have less games," he said.

"Their should not be so many matches outside national matches."

"All national leagues should be of only 16-18 teams."

English hero Sir Bobby Charlton said he disapproved of the proposal but World Cup-winning captains Franz Beckenbauer and Dino Zoff and some leading current players were in favour.

UEFA, who have just emerged victorious in the fight for control of the club game in Europe, said they were surprised by Blatter's plan.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson pointed out that 2004 was also UEFA's 50th anniversary and they were soon to announce the host for that year's European championship.

"I find the idea of a World Cup in the same year unacceptable," said Johansson.

"The proposal to or-

ganise a World Cup every two years has not been officially submitted to the FIFA executive, and the confederations, who would be strongly affected by it, were certainly never informed or consulted," added the Swede.

If Blatter's plan comes to fruition it would force the European championships to become a biennial event and

reduce it to a virtual World Cup qualifying competition.

The South American and African



FIFA HQ and Samaranch and Blatter shake on a deal well done

championships are held every two years while Asia's premier nation is effectively decided biennially by the Asian Cup and Asian Games soccer tournament.

UEFA is determined to avoid the joining them and has plenty of support.

"A World Cup is something to look forward to," said Charlton, a leading figure in England's 2006 World Cup bid.

"Waiting for it increases the value of it. A change to every two years would be very sad, I just hope it's not based on finance."

Borussia Dortmund manager Michael Meier was also against.

"There is no need for a change," he said. "It would certainly deprive the fans of some of the fun and the excitement."

Dutch F.A. spokesman Ger Stolk said his organisation was not a big fan of the idea which it also feared would damage the European championships.

"We think it would be very tough from a medical point of view. There are already complaints about the demands on players," said Stolk.

Danish soccer association (DBU) chairman Poul Hyldgaard told the daily *Berlingske Tidende* the proposal was soccer's suicide.

"If you burden soccer too much it will die. It would have many negative consequences," Hyldgaard said.

David Will, a FIFA vice-president, said the change would present enormous problems but added that it would

not be rejected out of hand. And despite Blatter's claim that FIFA had been discussing the idea for two years, Will said the first he had heard of it was in last week's media reports.

French Federation president Claude Simonet was reluctant to say much until he knew more details of the proposals.

However, he did say that he thought Blatter's idea was possibly a way to fight against the increasing influence of the Champions' League.

On the other side there were some powerful voices backing the idea for change, including Beckenbauer, who heads Germany's

2006 bid.

The only man to captain and then coach his country to World Cup victory, said: "I think it's a good idea. Now we have to see if it can be done and how."

Germany's current national coach Erich Ribbeck sounded less enthusiastic but did not reject the proposal: "We have to think about it quietly before we decide anything," he said.

Italy coach Zoff was

also in favour: "I like the idea. It's one we should pay some attention to," said the 1982 World Cup winning goalkeeper.

"The problem of finding space in the calendar? We would find space."

Juventus coach Marcello Lippi described Blatter's proposal as "interesting" but said he wanted to hear more.

"Which events are we going to sacrifice? What's going to happen to the Olympics and the European championships?" he asked.

"It would only add more congestion to a calendar which is already very intense."



Zinedine Zidane: the French superstar, shown with his Euro Player of the Year trophy, ignited the 1998 World Cup final in Paris.

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inside
SOCCER

Tommy Sermanni's MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

By Bruce Campbell and
Inside Soccer's
News Agency Service

New Canberra coach Tom Sermanni, the Cosmos' sixth mentor in their four years and fifth in the last 12 months, believes the struggling national soccer league club is just one result away from a turnaround.

"The pressure to get a win is intense, but once it happens it will ease and we will be able to get on with the job," he told his first press conference since returning from Japan where he was assistant coach to Eddie Thomson at Hiroshima.

He would not be drawn on just what kind of transformation he can work with the hapless Cosmos, bottom of the 15-team competition and without a point after 12 games before he took over.

"I don't really have any great expectations," he said.

"My job is to work with the players we have got for the rest of the season, to instil some pride and enthusiasm, and to lay plans for the future."

He said the root of Canberra's problems lay in its failure to introduce a system for developing young talent since it came into the league in 1995.

"By now we should have a hard core of experienced players with a steady stream of youngsters feeding in. Instead we have gone backwards," he said.

Sermanni played and coached in Canberra for 16 years before taking the Hiroshima job.

He said he was unconcerned about the personal pressure being placed on him, with many people saying he was the club's best and last hope.

"I don't think it's as

simple as that. Canberra should have a national league side, first of all because it's the national capital, secondly because it is a major centre but most importantly because we consistently produce good players."

He hoped to entice some of those players, based with other clubs in Australia and around the world, to rejoin the Cosmos.

Meanwhile central defender Gordon Hunter, who joined the Cosmos first time around in November 1997, will rejoin the club from Scotland.

"I'm pleased to be back on the books," Hunter told *Inside Soccer* before flying out of Scotland.

"Canberra did well for part of last season but it would seem that everything has gone backwards since."

"Ironically, Andy Ravanello, who I rate as a very good player, is in Scotland having trials with Livingstone."

"But there are dozens of Scottish players who have phoned me and said that they are interested in playing in Australia too."

"I'm thankful for the role that *Inside Soccer* has played in reuniting me with the Cosmos, I loved my time in Australia."

For his part Sermanni is pragmatic about his team's chances, and hopes that Hunter will fill part of the obvious void in playing talent.

"There are too many players at the club who are similar in build and style," he said.

"Hunter is something different and he will be a big plus to me."

"He should certainly put some toughness into the side and I would say that that will be an important part of his contribution."

"We have a lot of talented young players but they are on the light side,

we need someone with experience."

The Cosmos have signed three on-loan players - Ivo de Jesus, Nick Purdue and Oscar Gonzalez which should certainly add depth to their squad.

But maybe the hardest part of Sermanni's task, a task that many are calling Mission Impossible, is to re-unite the Canberra soccer public.

"He is a great choice from the people's point of view," former Cosmos assistant coach Ian Heywood said.

"If I or Steve Bryant had been given the job then there would have been supporters and detractors for both."

"But Tommy is a nice guy who just happens to be a top class coach."

"He'll do a good job and he has to because Canberra soccer is so divided just now."

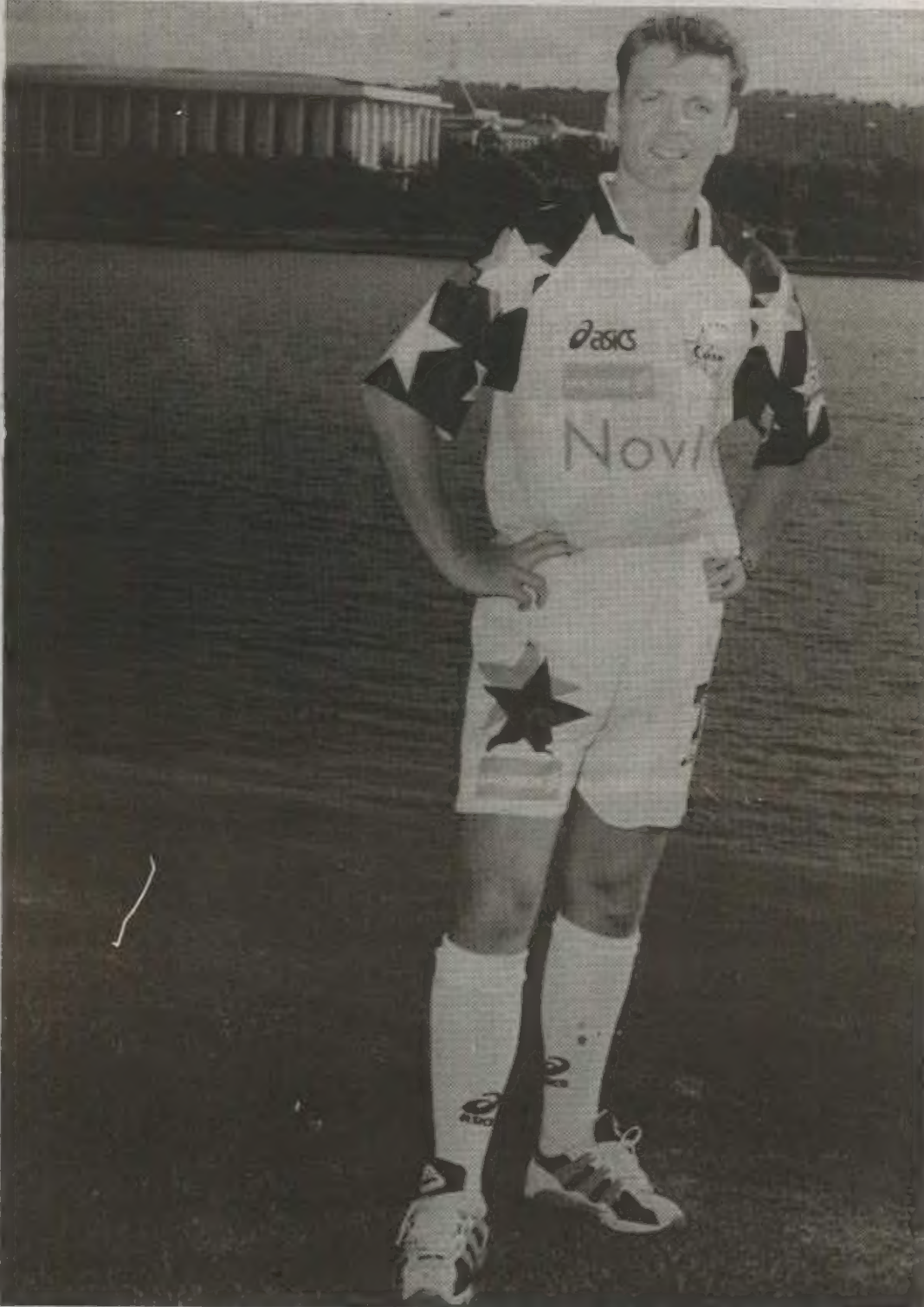
In the coffee houses of Manuka they are saying that Sermanni has accepted the job on a cut-price salary as a favour to the local soccer community.

And with top level soccer positions in the pre-Olympic year as scarce as hen's teeth that might just be right.

The word also is that Gordon Hunter will be asked to step up to a player/coach role when Sermanni does depart.

In fact, former coach Branko Culina recommended Hunter for that very position but most people in the know feel that recently sacked coach Rale Rasic's decision not to re-sign Hunter as a player had as much to do with fear of a ready replacement on his shoulder as any football factor.

Off the field chairman Ian Knop has worked a miracle keeping the club afloat and in the process has made the club the best sponsored in the Ericsson Cup.



Gordon Hunter: back at Canberra Cosmos as Tommy Sermanni goes on his Mission Impossible

Support from the government and private sectors has been vital as the Cosmos have sailed stormy waters.

But the sea of distrust in which the club was launched has never changed.

A recent spat between one of the club's directors and the Canberra Times has not healed that rift either.

And in another tinge of irony the self confessed soccer nut sports editor of the Canberra Times

finds himself in an invidious position.

Having had a Cosmos director tell Times managing editor to fire the paper's soccer reporter has not gone down very well at the capital's major press.

But Sermanni has sailed tough waters before and if anyone can heal some of the deep rifts which have been caused by off-field politicking it is the likeable Scot who calls Canberra home.

Talking Soccer with Carlton S.C.'s SEAN DOUGLAS

Recently, while addressing a school presentation night, I was asked by a parent what I did before becoming a full-time professional soccer player.

This parent was obviously concerned that her kids could become full-time players at a very young age, and end up leaving the sport, with the majority of their lives still to live, with no qualifications or work experience. In my case I was lucky and replied that I had completed Univer-

sity before "turning pro". A nod and a smile of satisfaction showed me that the parent had won a silent battle with her son/daughter - "Finish you're schooling first!"

Sadly, at the moment, many young kids are entering into a life of soccer with no plans for "life after sport". So, the Australian Professional Footballers Association have decided to try addressing this problem by introducing the Athlete

Career and Education (ACE) Programme, first piloting the scheme in Victorian Ericsson Cup clubs, then with plans to take it nationwide.

The ACE Program is a program of the Australian Institute of Sport and the network of state institutes and academies of sport. It provides all eligible athletes with career, educational, and professional development services. The challenge confronting many athletes, however, is how to

maintain the balance between their sporting and vocational aspirations.

The ACE Advisor's role is to assist athletes to more effectively combine these areas without compromising their sporting objectives. With all costs from the programme being met by the Association, it is a great opportunity for all players to further develop their careers outside soccer, and for new or young players to be confident that life will not stop at 30

when choosing to pursue a full-time soccer career.

So, the next time a parent asks me a similar question I will be able to confidently reply that soccer is a professional and caring sport that looks after the "outside" needs of its participants as well as looking after their sporting needs.



They Still Call Australia Home

PETER ZOIS

'Football is life the rest is mere details'. For Australian goalkeeper Peter Zois, this saying could not be any closer to the truth and to the average supporter, his story would seem like the typical soccer scenario.

Peter Zois is a talented youngster who travelled around the world looking for the break that would change his career and make him a star.

He experienced more than his fair share of knocks: bad agent stories, nightmare trials and coaches telling him that he wasn't good enough.

However, Peter made the decision to follow his dreams at all costs and that is exactly what he did.

Now, he is on the eve of signing a three year contract with Dutch team NAC Breda, living the life of a professional footballer and simply waiting for the chance to prove that he has what it takes to play amongst some of Europe's finest.

"When I was back home, people wouldn't understand why I would go to goalkeepers' camps in Europe, but I saw it as an investment in my future," he said.

"I was able to learn and bring back information.

"In Europe you have the top teams, the cream of the crop and I was able to see where I stood in comparison to other keepers."

By Melina Boursinos

As is the case with most players who venture overseas, the former V.I.S. and South Melbourne player knew that it was a long road ahead.

However, he felt he had the confidence to conquer even the most difficult obstacle and was ready for any challenge he would face.

As he travelled to the place where he first kicked a soccer ball to trial with Greek first division giants Aris, his expectations were high.

"I went to trial with Aris last year where Australian Mike Panopoulos is playing and I only stayed for four days," he said.

"It was enough time for me to know that I did not want to

play there.

"I can understand when people put you down if you're not working hard, but I was doing well and they would continuously criticise and fault me.

"At the end of it I had just had enough. I'd also been to England and for about four months my agent would send me to teams that wouldn't even need goalkeepers.

"He'd tell me that he had contacts at certain teams but it would turn out that he never really knew anyone within the clubs directly."

Despite his turbulent experiences, at a time when his best option was to give up and come home to play National League soccer, Peter kept his

head held high.

He knew he had the ability to make it in the big time and was determined to prove the critics wrong.

"When I came home I signed with Flying Start Promotions and they helped me out," he said.

"I told them that I would like to play in Holland.

"I had been there for the goalkeepers' camp and I liked the country. They set up a few trials and I eventually signed with N.A.C. Breda."

From the moment he arrived at the club, Peter knew that his luck had changed.

He was amazed by every aspect of Dutch football, in particular the professionalism of the clubs and the standard and style of the game.

"The first thing that hits you when you arrive are the facilities," Zois says.

"The NAC stadium is new and you just look at it and see the professionalism.

"In comparison to Australian soccer the standard of the game is higher.

"It is quicker, smarter, physically it is a lot tougher and the technique is different.

"I am currently training and travelling with the firsts but playing with the seconds.

"I am reserve keeper for the first team which is pretty good after only six months."

While most players would be complaining of home sickness, climate and language problems, Peter Zois is on top of the world.

His game continues to improve as he strives to reach his ultimate goal of making a name for himself in the Dutch league.

"Home is where the heart is and you'll always miss home, but you get used to it," he admits.

"I guess being away with the Australian team helped me a lot.



"I am currently living in the NAC player sports hotel. It is a built in section in the stadium, which is a hotel for the foreign players.

"I am staying with three Africans and two Brazilians.

"It is great.

"Your meals are cooked for you, your washing is done and as you open the front door you step out onto the stadium."

Although Peter is busy establishing his international career, representing Australia in the 2000 Olympics is still one of his top priorities.

"I am in training with the team for 2000, but unless you're a player like Harry Kewell, it is hard," Zois says.

"Your club does not want to release you for matches, you have to travel long distances to play with the national team and it costs the Federation a lot of money to bring you over.

"Myself and Ante Militic were asked to play for Australia against the US, but our

club wouldn't release us.

"There was a training camp organised last year in Europe for all the overseas based players, but it was cancelled, so we'll just have to wait and see what happens."

As he returns to Holland after the Christmas break, the future looks bright for this quiet achiever.

"I am the happiest I've ever been in life, both on and off the field," he says.

"I am in the process of finalising the details of my contract and everything is going well.

"It is hard to look too far ahead, but when I go to bed at night and close my eyes, I dream of one day playing in the Serie A in Italy."

According to the gifted young keeper, the philosophy, which has led to his footballing success, is simple: "Purely live Monday for the reason that it's Monday and deal with Tuesday as it comes."

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CLUB PATROL

CANBERRA COMOS new recruit Nick Purdue, on loan from Northern Spirit, was added to the club's squad for last weekend's match against South Melbourne.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS striker Lachlan Armstrong must make his mind up shortly whether to return to Westvale or not. The January 31 deadline is approaching all State League players.

MARCONI soccer administrator Ross Musso is out of town. Rosco is on a 'working holiday' in Italy. While on the goalkeeping front the imminent return of regular first team keeper Ante Covic will see a big fight for that position with stand-in David Aceski in top form lately.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS young star Andrew Borghetto is set to return to action after getting a doctor's all clear last week for his broken leg.

NORTHERN SPIRIT created something of a club record against Newcastle last Friday - it was the first time that THREE players were out suspended; Mark Rudan and Paul Bilokapic missed the match through an accumulation of yellow

cards while coach Graham Arnold was sent off the previous round. Tony Perinich may return to the squad before the end of the season after a knee reconstruction.

SOUTH MELBOURNE star Con Blatsis injured himself at training - and will be out for another 2 weeks with a hamstring injury.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's talented youngster Nick Carle will be out for at least another month with a foot injury which has seen him out of the Olyroo squad also.

SYDNEY UNITED expect a New Year bonus with an expected February return of Abbas Saad.

PERTH GLORY long term injury victim Vinko Buljubasic married his girlfriend Sally in Melbourne last Saturday.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES are said to be in the hunt for players - and the tip is that a couple of HIGH PROFILE players are on their way out

Runaway Mark THE SAGA CONTINUES

By Will Swanton

Socceroo Mark Viduka is waiting for Celtic and Croatia Zagreb to resolve their \$8 million dispute before he starts afresh with the Scottish champions.

It's a Catch-22 situation.

The star striker wants his hefty slice of the \$8 million transfer fee guaranteed before re-joining Celtic, but the club won't pay until Viduka proves his reliability and commitment after he walked out last month citing emotional stress before he'd played a match.

When Celtic pays Croatia Zagreb the \$8 million, Viduka is owed \$3 million with another \$1.6 million going to his former Australian club, the Melbourne Knights.

Viduka's Australian manager Bernie Mandic declined to speculate on the continuing financial problem but admitted his client was awaiting a decision by the clubs.

"They need to resolve

their situation, there's still the financial resolution to come," Mandic said.

"We're hoping that in the next week or so there will be some sort of resolution between them."

Until then, Viduka has been gagged by Celtic.

"Celtic has asked Mark not to talk to reporters," Mandic said.

"If you talk to Celtic and they say it's okay for Mark to comment then go right ahead but the way things stand, Celtic has the last say."

Asked whether Viduka remained likely to join Celtic, Mandic said: "That's still likely."

A 21-man Celtic squad arrives in Malaga, Spain last Tuesday for a training camp and Viduka, according to Mandic, wants to be there.

Scotland's premier league is on a four-week Christmas break, adding a major obstacle to the club's negotiations.

Viduka pleaded emotional burnout when he fled Celtic only days after leav-

ing Croatia Zagreb, where he was hounded by locals demanding more goals from their star striker.

Viduka spent Christmas with family in Melbourne and he also received psychological counselling.

Croatia Zagreb has complained about the delayed payment to FIFA, but soccer's world governing body wants the clubs to resolve the problem themselves.

There is speculation that Croatia Zagreb will take considerable time paying Viduka his \$3 million once it gets hold of the \$8 million.

Celtic are currently 10 points behind rivals Rangers in the Scottish premier league, which started its four-week winter shutdown after Sunday's 2-2 draw in the Glasgow derby.

Viduka is expected to get his first action for the club in a friendly match against local opposition during the Costa del Sol training camp— if he arrives.

AND *John White continues:* Mark Viduka has missed out on his first taste



Tony Vidmar: a good display in the recent Old Firm derby

of a Glasgow Old Firm derby, the longest running club feud in the world, by giving the Parkead club a dizzy.

Viduka's Socceroo teammate Tony Vidmar, however, had an excellent game as the two Scottish giants drew 2-2 in front of a capacity stadium.

Vidmar, originally out of

favour with team boss Dick Advocaat, got his chance because of injury to Holland's World Cup left back Albert Numan.

However, the two sides are still to clash twice again this season with the chance of another red letter day for Australian soccer history — the first time that two Aussies will play against each

other in the Scottish Premier League.

For that to happen Mark Viduka must put his career before his bank account while Tony Vidmar, who has done just that by staying on at Ibrox and battling for a first team place, has to convince Advocaat that he is worthy of a first team place.

England bid pressure

By Erskine McCullough

Pressure is expected to be put on the English Football Association to give up its bid to host the 2006 soccer World Cup following the 'cash for votes scandal' - according to senior international football sources. England's only chance of beginning to repair the damage done by the failed attempt to win a seat on the all-powerful executive committee of FIFA, football's governing world body, is to withdraw, said the sources.

The current International Board seat on FIFA is held by Scotland's David Will but early last year the English 2006 World Cup camp was angered by what it saw as Will's lack of support for the plan to bring the World Cup back to England for the first time in 40 years.

British and European sources say that it was this fury against Will that led to the aborted FA attempt to try and buy support to oust him and replace him with Wiseman. The failed attempt to win a seat on FIFA's executive committee, which selects the World Cup hosts, is only the latest in a series of political blunders that has seen England's power on football's political world stage fall to an all-time low.

The fact that England even put forward a World Cup bid caused a serious rift within UEFA, Europe's governing football body. UEFA president Leonhart Johansson and other members were furious at the English announcement, insisting that a gentleman's agreement had been struck between the former English UEFA member Sir Bert Milli-

chip and UEFA's executive committee that England would get to host Euro '96 and Germany would represent Europe in the battle to win the 2006 World Cup.

English officials said there was no agreement in writing and argued they had every right to go ahead with their bid. The split between UEFA and the FA widened when the FA, after originally backing Johansson to replace the outgoing Joao Havelange as FIFA president, dramatically switched sides at the last moment by deciding to go for Sepp Blatter, the successful candidate.

FA officials argued that with Johansson as FIFA president they stood no chance of winning the 2006 World Cup. By backing Blatter, who beat Johansson, there was still a hope.

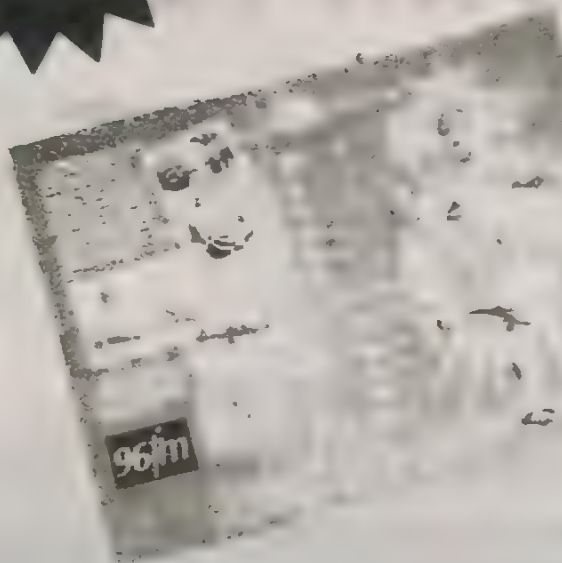
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Robertson beckons interesting selection poser for Olyroos

By Bruce Campbell

THREE overseas players have been recalled for the Australian Olyroo squad for the matches against South Korea as coach Raul Blanco has stuck largely by the players chosen against China.

The overseas additions are Ralph Bove from Holland and Chris Coyne and Mark Robertson from England.

In the last six months three key players in the squad have moved overseas; Vince Grella, Tansel Baser and Bill Damianos.

Neither of these players have been named as Blanco seeks not to strain relationships with their European clubs at this early stage.

Similarly he has not recalled England-based players Harry Kewell (Leeds) and Nick Rizzo (Crystal Palace) nor Sanfrecce defender Hayden Foxe who was the stand-out player against China.

Missing through injury is Carlton's classy

Simon Colosimo while Blanco has omitted Carlos Gonzalez and Andy Vargas.

Vargas has been named in a stand-by list.

The squad assembled in Melbourne yesterday (Monday 11 January) after Round 14 Ericsson Cup commitments and will be released to their clubs on Saturday 16th January for Round 15 Ericsson Cup commitments.

They will then re-assemble in Melbourne Monday 18th January for the second game.

The South Korean Under-23 squad arrived in Sydney late last week and after acclimatising started training on Sunday.

A trial match was scheduled against Sydney Olympic today (Tuesday) and they will fly into Melbourne tomorrow.

The Olyroos have made Port Melbourne's Anderson Reserve ground their base in Victoria and are due to play a practice match against the Sharks tonight (Tuesday at 6.00pm).

Tomorrow the Olyroos

will hold a free clinic for juniors at Anderson Reserve starting at 11.30pm.

Blanco's main concern for the South Korea matches will be his midfield which failed to perform against China.

That in turn created a lack of support for the front men and he will be keen to correct that.

Burnley's Mark Robertson is almost certain to be in heavy action and he will be given an opportunity to stake a claim for a regular shirt.

The young midfielder was at Marconi before moving to England and reports indicate that he has improved tremendously.

Danny Milosevic is in outstanding form for Perth Glory and will be hard to displace in goals.

In defence both Bove and Coyne will get plenty of park time with Blanco likely to use Canberra's Ivan Zelic in the sweeper role.

But it will be who Blanco pairs with Robertson in midfield which holds the most interest. Emerton, the ace in the



Captain Olyroo Brett Emerton

Olyroo pack, is a shoe-in as captain.

Up front the form striker is Sydney United's Mile Sterjovski and he

could form an interesting pairing with Michael Curcija.

On paper it looks a side capable of scoring goals.

Australian Under-23s Soccer Coach Raul Blanco has named an eighteen player squad for the games against South Korea, coming up later this month.

The squad relies heavily on players chosen for the disappointing two game series against China last year.

The Olyroos will take on the South Korean Under-23 team over two dates: Friday 15th January at the Mobil Stadium in Morwell, and Friday 22nd January at the Bob Jane Stadium in Melbourne.

The 18-man squad is as follows:

Goalkeepers:

Danny Milosevic (Perth),
Joe Didulica (Melbourne Knights).

Defenders:

Ralph Bove (SC Heerenveen, NL),
Chris Coyne (West Ham, ENG),
Steve Laybutt (Brisbane Strikers),
Sebastian Sinozic (Wollongong Wolves),
Ivan Zelic (Canberra Cosmos).

Midfielders:

Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic) captain,
Jason Culina (Sydney Olympic),
Jacob Burns (Sydney United),
Mark Robertson (Burnley, ENG),
Zeljko Susa (Melbourne Knights),
Kasey Wehrman (Brisbane Strikers),
Marco Bresciano (Carlton),
Michael Garcia (Perth).

Strikers:

Clayton Zane (Northern Spirit),
Mile Sterjovski (Sydney United),
Michael Curcija (South Melbourne).

Standbys:

Christian Care (Marconi-Fairfield)
Levent Osman (Gippsland Falcons)
Carlos Gonzalez (Sydney Olympic)
Andy Vargas (Gippsland Falcons)
Dragi Nastevski (Melbourne Knights)
Nathan Wildy (Adelaide Sharks)

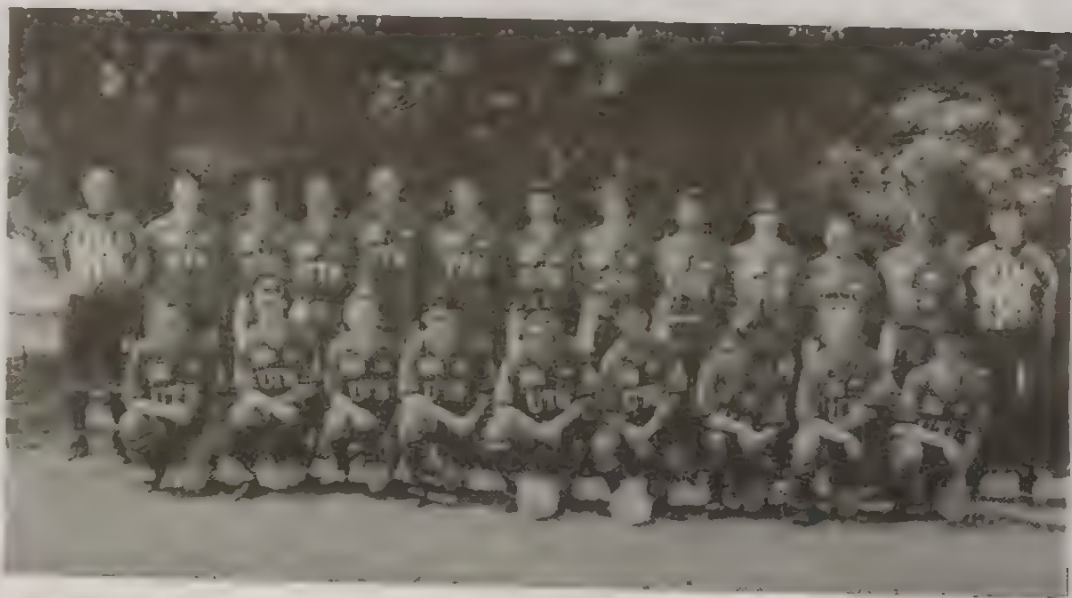
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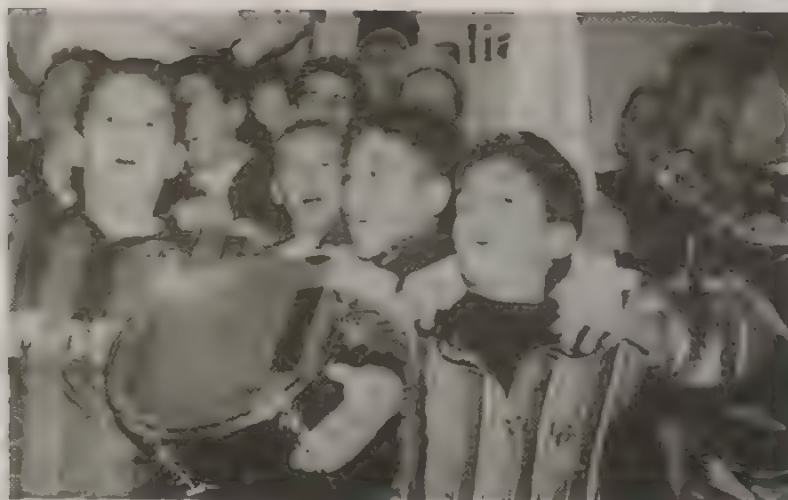
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They Still Call Australia Home

AUSTRALIAN players currently contracted to overseas clubs:

ENGLAND:

D Allsop (Manchester City)
J Aloisi (Coventry City)
A Bernal (Reading)
M Bosnich (Aston Villa)
J Brady (Rushden and Diamonds)
T Cahill (Millwall)
S Corica (Wolverhampton)
C Coyne (West Ham)
J Coyne (West Ham)
T Dorigo (Derby County)
G Edds (N'ham Forest)
J Filan (Blackburn)
C Foster (Crystal Palace)
R Garcia (West Ham)
L Gillman (Norwich City)
S Guyett (Southport)
P Harries (Crystal Palace)
S Horvat (Crystal Palace)
S Ilic (Charlton)
R Johnson (Watford)
J Kearton (Crewe)
H Kewell (Leeds)
G Kulcsar (QPR)
S Laurie (West Ham)
S Lazaridis (West Ham)
S Lyons (Coventry)
S Mautone (Reading)
I Martin (Newcastle)
J McMaster (Leeds)
A McDermott (West Brom)
S Miotto (Hartlepool)
C Moore (Crystal Palace)
S Murphy (West Brom)
K Muscat (Wolverhampton)
L Neill (Millwall)
D Oldfield (Stoke City)
A Petterson (Portsmouth)
N Rizzo (Crystal Palace)



M Robertson (Burnley)
M Schwarzer (Middlesbrough)
T Scope (Coventry)
D Seal (Northampton)
F Talia (Swindon)
D Tiatto (Manchester City)
J Van Blerk (West Brom)
L Wilshire (Middlesbrough)

GERMANY:

P Agostino (TSV 1860 Munich)
F Juric (Fortuna Dusseldorf)
R Middleby (KFC Uerdingen)
T Sekulic (FSV Mainz 05)
J Simunic (SV Hamburg)
D Zdrilic (SSV Ulm 1846)
N Zelic (TSV 1860 Munich).

HOLLAND:

J Bacak (Vitesse Arnhem)
R Bove (SC Heerenveen)
Z Kalac (Roda JC Kerkrade)
M Maisano (EVV Eindhoven)

A Milicic (NAC Breda)
P Zois (NAC Breda).

SCOTLAND:

S Lovell (Hibernian)
B Machin (Queen's Park)
T Vidmar (Glasgow Rangers)
M Viduka (Glasgow Celtic)
R Watson (Glenafton Athletic).

CROATIA:

M Jermen (NK Zadarkomerc)
P Lapic (NK Zagreb)
A Seric (HNK Hajduk Split)
A Skoko (Mosor)
J Skoko (HNK Hajduk Split).

BELGIUM:

Z Arambasic (KV Mechelen)
L Kindtner (KV Oostende)
J Maisano (KVC Westerlo)
R Palomino (Tournaisien)
J Spiteri (K Lierse SK).

GREECE:

B Damianos (Skoda Xanthi)
A Koutsos (Pierikos)
P Lahanas (Apollon Athinon)
J Palatsides (Olympiakos Volou).

JAPAN:

H Foxe (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
T Popovic (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)
A Vidmar (Sanfrecce Hiroshima).

ITALY:

V Grella (Empoli)
P Okon (Lazio).

TURKEY:

T Baser (Trabzonspor)
U Talay (Galatasaray).

SINGAPORE:

V Bozinoski (Tanjong Pagar)

Doug Ithier (Marine Castle)
S O'Donnell (Marine Castle).

FRANCE:

R Aloisi (FC Lorient).

CZECH REPUBLIC:

M Sajrynes (SFC Opava).

SPAIN:

K Salapasidis (Compostela).

HONG KONG:

P Foster (Instant Dict).

MALAYSIA:

B Bothwell (Brunei Darulsalam).

CHILE:

M Pena (Audax Italiano).

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Getting to the top

By Tony Moffitt

HAD BOBBY Catlin's career come to a close last season, it would have ended nicely, thank you.

The Newcastle Breakers goalkeeper could have walked away and remembered with fondness two decades studded with highlights, and schoolboy dreams come true.

Catlin could have boasted of more than 20

years playing the game, of representing Australian in '91 and '94, of Grand Final games and of playing professional soccer in England before massive crowds.

"I've achieved everything I ever wanted," he explains.

"I reached all the goals I ever set for myself."

If he had walked away though, season 1998/99 with the Newcastle Breakers would never

have happened.

At 33, Bobby Catlin has seen and done it all.

Now he's the last line of defence in a Newcastle outfit that's strongly dependent on youth.

It's exactly this reason that makes Catlin so perfectly suited at Birmingham Gardens.

His wealth of experience and laid back assurance can't help but inspire confidence in those around him.

Not that he is planning on retirement.

"I love playing and I love playing at Newcastle," he explained enthusiastically.

"They're a good bunch of lads and their positive approach to training and playing rubs off."

"For me every game I play is a bonus."

For Catlin, playing with the Breakers means driving from his Sydney home for each training

session, and on match days.

But not even the endless hours travelling can dull his enthusiasm.

"I'm enjoying myself and I'm in good form," he says, "the travelling doesn't bother me at all."

At age 8, Catlin stepped between a set of goalposts for the very first time and he's played no other position.

Representing Australia remains a highlight of his distinguished career, career but it's his time in England he recalls with most fondness.

"I played for Notts County in 1993," he says.

"At the time I wasn't getting a lot of games and ended up being loaned to Birmingham City."

"I'll never forget playing for Birmingham against Newcastle at St James Park in front of 30,000 people."

"It was very special." Catlin first went to England when he was 23.

He returned when he was 27, and there is one regret, perhaps that's it.

"I should have gone when I was younger - fifteen or sixteen," he admits.

"By the time I got my chance, and took it, it was a little too late."

However, Catlin has no



regrets about signing for Newcastle.

"I honestly believe we're a Top Six chance," he confesses.

"We've still got plenty of work to do, but the opportunity is there."

"Once we make the last six, anything can happen."

Like all goalkeepers, Bobby Catlin loves nothing better than keeping a clean sheet - something that is a matter of personal pride, but his loyalty to club comes first and foremost.

"I'd be perfectly happy never to have a clean sheet gain - provided we won every game," he says.

"The game against Adelaide City was our first clean sheet of the

season," he said praising the Breakers defensive line.

"That was a little bit special."

"We were all pleased."

In the harsh, and sometimes cruel world of professional soccer, Catlin's advice to youngsters wanting to play the game reflects his own career - and his own approach to the game.

"Anything can be achieved," he says simply.

"Follow your dream. Don't give up and don't give in."

You can't argue with the man.

Bobby Catlin is living proof of how a dream and determination can take you to the very top - and keep you there.

Happy times at Marconi - with Bobby Catlin the funny man



Fausto is just too cool

By Paul Gough

South Melbourne's bid to win back-to-back national soccer league championships for the first time is firmly on track, according to coach Angie Postecoglou.

The reigning premier has spent much of this season in the background while the high flying Perth Glory, the much improved Marconi and local rivals Carlton grabbed the headlines.

It took South 12 weeks to reclaim the top spot but ominously it now enjoys a three point gap over third placed Marconi in the race for the vital top two positions.

Little wonder Postecoglou is smiling.

"We've played some very good teams over the last four or five weeks and we've lost one or two players over the course of that but we're sitting on top of the ladder," he said.

"At one stage we were eight points behind Perth and they now they are all chasing us."

While South remain one of the league's most free-flowing teams, what has pleased Postecoglou most in recent weeks has been the stiffening of his side's defence.

This has come despite the continued absence of Con Blatsis through injury and the loss of Tansel Baser to Turkey.

"Everyone questioned our defence at



Coach Postecoglou thinks his sweeper Fausto de Amicis is a cool guy

the start of the season but in the last six games we have kept three or four clean sheets and only conceded a couple of

goals," he said.

A major reason for this has been the success of Fausto De Amicis's move to sweeper.

"He's done very well," Postecoglou said of the player who was voted best afield in South's grand final triumph last year. "Since

he has been back there, we have only conceded one goal and the boys seem comfortable with him back there. He's cool and he's calm and he doesn't panic at any stage and I think that filters through to the rest of the boys at the back."

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Veteran seals 7 goal game

By Graham Cook

A goal at the death by Australia's most experienced player, Anissa Tann-Darby put the Matildas into the final of women's soccer's Australia Cup with a thrilling 4-3 win over Canada at Bruce Stadium on Sunday night.

Australia will meet Italy in the final, also at Bruce Stadium, on Wednesday night.

Charmaine Hooper scored her second goal for Canada in the 68th minute to lock the scores at 3-3 and extra time looked inevitable until Tann-Darby scored after a dramatic 90th minute free kick was awarded when Julie Murray was brought down.

Murray had put Australia ahead in the ninth minute of the see-sawing match, a long cross from Joanne Peters passing behind a Canadian defender to Murray who struck the ball home on the half volley.

Eight minutes later, the Matildas went 2-0 up when a free kick taken by Cheryl Salisbury rebounded off the wall and back to her.

Taking advantage of the disor-

ganisation in the Canadian defence, she slid the ball to Murray.

Goalkeeper Nicole Wright tipped Murray's shot into the air but only as far as Angela Iannotta who pushed the ball home from close range.

With Salisbury off the field receiving treatment for an injury, Canada pulled one back.

An accurate drive from Geraldine Donnelly rocketed towards the top right-hand corner of Australia's net.

Goalkeeper Belinda Kitching got her fist to the ball, but the power of the shot beat her and she could only help it into the net.

Canada equalised in the 59th minute when Hooper drove home following an indirect free kick in the penalty area but within two minutes the Matildas had restored their lead.

Lisa Casagrande, who had come on when the Canadian goal was scored, was at the far post to head home from a cross by Iannotta.

But Canada was not finished yet and from another kick, this time just outside the penalty area, Hooper drove through a mass of players to find the corner of the Australian net.

Ogsdon cards three as Aussies go down

By Anthony Raineri

Italy overcame three red cards to defeat Australia 5-4 on penalties in a dramatic Australia Cup women's international soccer tournament at Marconi Stadium on Friday night.

The Europeans had players sent off in the 36th minute, the third minute of injury time and in extra time, but still the Australians failed to score the winner.

Australian coach Greg Brown said he was happier with his team when Italy had 11 players.

"When they lost players we started to rush things and lose our heads," the former Socceroo said.

"We didn't play smartly. The players have learnt the hard way."

Referee Tammy Ogsdon had a controversial match handing out five yellow cards to the Italians in addition to the three reds. Only one Australian was booked.

At one stage Ogsdon had to order an angry Italian coach Carlo Facchin away from the sideline as he threatened to dispute her decisions.

"You saw the match so

you write what happened," Facchin told *Inside Soccer*.

"If I tell you what I really thought of the referee's performance tonight I'm sure I will be banned for life by not only my Federation but FIFA as well."

"All I want to say about the match is that my team played with great courage and pride. Australia were well rested, are acclimatised to the hot conditions and have been together for a long time. Australia has potential. They should play more not kick the opposition."

Facchin's counterpart Greg Brown said he had no problem with the referee's performance.

"There were not many cards which should not have been cards," he said.

"Italy's Patrizia Panico scored in the 60th minute and Australia replied through midfielder Cheryl Salisbury with only five minutes to go in normal time."

Roberta Stefanelli's winning penalty kick triggered off wild celebrations among the Italian players and supporters who ran onto the field to embrace the Italians.

Italy wins Cup opener

By Anthony Raineri

A sparkling performance from substitute Patrizia Panico gave Italy a 1-0 win over Canada at Marconi Stadium on Wednesday in the opening match of the inaugural Australia Cup international women's soccer tournament.

Panico, 23, came on at half-time and immedi-

ately created havoc for the Canadian defence.

In the 54th minute, a rocket-like shot from the striker just missed the target but three minutes later she was more accurate and broke the deadlock with a brilliant solo goal.

Canada could have snatched an undeserved draw with two minutes to go if Shannon Rosenow

had not spoilt a one-to-one challenge with the Italian goalkeeper.

Italian coach Carlo Facchin said he was satisfied with the performance considering 24 hours earlier the players had been training in below zero temperatures.

"This was my first match in charge so I was more interested in seeing how my team performed

as a unit," he said.

"Because of the hot conditions we were not able to play at our optimum level."

Canada coach Neil Turnbull said his team gave away possession too many times to deserve to win. Italy was forced to wear Marconi-Fairfield's national soccer league jersey because its own gear was lost in transit.

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Carlton marriage heading for stormy break up

By John White

THE EMERGENCE of a partnership with Australian rules was supposed to take soccer into the new millennium but instead it has been a flirtation mixed with tragedy, disaster, heartache and, yes, even a Grand Final.

Other big names were involved in the courtship with the NSL before the de facto wedding of Collingwood and Heidelberg United saw the first of the AFL's successful bids into Australian soccer.

That ended in tears, as many shotgun marriages do, but the following season it looked like bride and groom had at last got it right when Carlton took its place in the 1997/98 Ericsson Cup.

Even although Collingwood had managed a Johnnie Walker Cup win in its inaugural season the success of the Blues in reaching last season's Grand Final was stagger-

ing.

On the brink of a major role in Australia soccer the season wasn't even started when the back street whispering began.

The club wouldn't be able to call Optus Oval home for the whole season, players had to be sold to balance the books and then Chairman Jack Reilly was said to be looking for an out.

The reason, pathetic crowds.

More rumours followed, that the club was on the brink of an amalgamation with South Melbourne, that it was going to fold, that the Aussie Rules backers were ready to pull out.

And now that most of the whisper campaign has been confirmed it looks as if the honeymoon is finally over.

The latest in a long running flirtation with danger is the rumour that entrepreneur Peter Jess has taken an interest in investing in the Mel-

bourne club, still brimful of playing talent and possessing in Eddie Krncevic one of Australia's best young coaches.

And it is odds-on that Carlton will play next season at Olympic Park - if that move doesn't take place before this season is out as some of the pundits are predicting.

Jess is said to have already headed a consortium which has agreed on a dowry for the club licence held by the Carlton Cricket and Football Social Club.

Name changes are also said to be on the cards, no doubt a lesson learnt by the highly successful Perth Glory and Northern Spirit entities.

Ironically, Carlton has been shunned by non-Italians because it is seen to be too much of an Italian club, shunned by Italians because they favour Bulleen, shunned by the Anglo-Aussies because they don't feel comfortable there and shunned by traditional soccer fans because of apathy.

The new Jess consortium is said to favour a switch to Melbourne City but that has pangs of a previous relationship in

soccer, and a stormy one too.

Soccer, it seems, prefers to marry within the game.

It remains to be seen whether the club's second marriage will work or whether it already has that unmistakable aura about it, the one of a doomed romance.

Jess himself is heavily involved in Aussie Rules, as manager of some of the country's top players and also has interests in athletics and basketball.

Insiders in both the alleged consortium, Carlton AFL and Carlton SC were remaining tight lipped last week.

But like all stormy relationships the full story isn't far away.

Illicit affairs are always stormy ones - and they are never far away from the headlines.

The good news out of all this for soccer fans is that the club will survive.

A bastion of playing brilliance from its very inception Carlton is just too good a club to lose - whatever its name or wherever it plays.

Full details of the buy-out are imminent but the survival is assured.

THE STARS OF TOMORROW

National Youth League Round-up

With Roy Hay

National Youth League Southern Division

Bulleen v South Melbourne

Bulleen Inter and South Melbourne drew nil-all at the Veneto Club on Thursday in a Round 14 match.

Ron Carroll reports "The game was very entertaining for all that attended.

"Both keepers were under pressure all night as the game saw-sawed up and down the ground.

"Both teams had many opportunities but were unable to convert.

"The closest was at the 20 minute mark when Sasha Bulut came off his line to close down an attack when ball was lobbed over his head and hit the bar.

"It was difficult to pick the best player as there were so many.

"For Bulleen Sasha Bulut, Nathan Thomas, Robert Bresciano, Xhezair Sulemani, Berkan Sakaci, Mark Stella would have to be close.

"For South Melbourne Jim Tsekenis cause us some headaches also Patrick Kinsoro was prominent while Chris Jones denied us several times.

"The final score of 0-0 was a fair result although a little disap-

pointing for both teams."

VIS v Gippsland Falcons

The Victorian Institute of Sport and Gippsland Falcons also drew, this time one-all.

An even first half should have seen a couple of early goals for the VIS as Scott McDonald was twice denied by the keeper from close range.

In the second incident the Gippsland keeper was injured and had to be replaced.

Ben Cassar dominated in midfield for the Falcons until Denis Vucinic came on as substitute in the second half and kept Cassar quieter thereafter.

Boris Ovcin broke the deadlock with a thrice-taken free kick with ten minutes left to play.

Vucinic then set up the equaliser for the VIS which was bundled into the net by McDonald.

Best for the Falcons was Cassar, while the VIS defence with Daniel Rocco in good form took the honours.

Carlton v Melbourne Knights

Carlton beat Melbourne Knights by four goals to two at Knights Stadium. Carlton had a very powerful line-up and Alex Josifovski scored twice in the 5th and 48th minutes and David Grbac and Tony Ouliaris also were on target for the Blues in 82 and 34 minutes respectively. Adis Kablar with two goals in 61 and 86 minutes was the hero for the Knights, who were also well served by Daniel Radosevic and Zlatko Maglic.

The scheduled catch up game from Round 4 between Bulleen and Albury Wodonga was not played.

Northern Division

Spirit v Newcastle

Northern Spirit and Newcastle Breakers drew one-all in an even hard-fought match, in which both sides negated the strengths of their opponents. Adam Snyder scored the goal for Spirit in 46 minutes, and Paul Wheeler equalised from the penalty spot on the hour.

Wollongong v Olympic

Adrian Cervinski scored twice for a ten-man Sydney Olympic in a three-one away win over Wollongong Wolves.

The striker played the second match of his comeback after a serious neck injury.

Chad Bishop scored with a penalty of the Wolves after Elias Augerinos was sent off, but Ali Jomaa also scored for Olympic which at least managed to convert a proportion of its chances this time.

QAS v Wollongong

Queensland Academy of Sport had a nine-nil win over Wollongong Wolves Colts.

Russell Miner started the rout in 5 minutes and goals flowed steadily thereafter, with miner getting his second in 27, Allan Cameron one in 25, Owen Filewood a double in 44 and 60, Shane Smeltz in 40, Adam Web-

ber in 47, Chay Hews in 75 and finally Damien Volker in 85.

Marconi v Marconi

Marconi Fairfield beat its Colts team by three goals to nil at Marconi Stadium.

The goals were scored by Joe Bruni, Mark Hagger, taking his total for the season to 15, and Vuko Tomasevic.

ACTAS v Olympic

ACTAS beat Sydney Olympic Academy by four goals to two in Canberra. Full details are not to hand, but the Olympic Colts scorers were Chris Seitis and Damien Pizzano.

NSWIS v Sydney United

New South Wales Institute of Sport beat Sydney United Colts by three goals to nil

The first half was tight and the only goal came from Shane Cansdell-Sheriff after 5 minutes with a fine shot from 25 metres. Tallan Martin scored the first of his two goals just after the restart and added the other in 53 minutes and thereafter the Institute dominated, peppering the goal and the woodwork with shots.

Peter Gavaghan did very well once again, while Matthew Nash maintained his concentration to pull off a couple of good saves in rare Colts counter-attacks. Simon Catanzaro was rested in the first half, but made a big impact in the second for the Institute.

United v Spirit

Sydney United beat Northern Spirit Colts by eight goals to nil at Edensor Park. Daniel Kukucka scored a hat-trick, and Jason Kencevski and Joe Moric each had a double, with the other goal coming from Greg Collins.

Asian soccer in new wave of match fixing

By Stuart Grudgings

Yusuf Ekodono's last-ditch goal was undeniably spectacular - not least in the damage it did to soccer's already blighted image in Asia.

With the clock running down and the score tied at 2-2 in last August's Tiger Cup group game in Vietnam, the Indonesian deliberately slipped the ball past his own goalkeeper to hand Thailand an unwanted 3-2 victory and spare his teammates the risk of playing the host nation in the semi-finals.

As the Indonesian players ran shamelessly to congratulate Ekodono on his "winner", the Thais sank to the ground after failing in a frantic defence of the opposition goalmouth.

The farce was complete, and another annus horribilus for Asian soccer assured.

Despite efforts to clean up the game following two huge corruption scandals involving Malaysia in the mid-1990s, match-fixers from

Indonesia to China continued to justify Asian soccer's serious image problem in 1998.

Less than three months after the Ho Chi Minh comedy, five Hong Kong national players appeared in court on charges related to fixing matches, including a World Cup game.

Their trials are due in the next few months.

Indonesia's league ground to a halt earlier in the year amid an upsurge in corruption as the country's economy crumbled and China, whose nascent professional league has been dogged by scandal since its birth in 1994, shaped up as the next hotspot.

In October, two coaches there were stripped of their licenses after their teams put in suspiciously poor performances against lowly opposition, and there even been riots by fans infuriated at rampant match-fixing.

Undeterred, Asian soccer officials are planning to kick off 1999 with a renewed anti-corruption

campaign they hope will have brought results by 2002, when the greatest tournament in sport will be held on Asian soil for first time.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), says that while a crackdown on corruption in the mid-1990s sent many bookies into hiding, recent events show it remains a serious problem.

"We are still faced with the activities of bookies in Southeast Asian countries ... and now we have this case in Hong Kong," he said.

Forming a coordinated attack on match-fixing will be the key aim of an April seminar in Singapore to which national associations from the worst-hit countries have been invited, he said.

"We can't have much influence on the givers (bookmakers) but we can influence the takers (players and officials)," he said.

"We are instigating an education programme to

teach them that crime doesn't pay."

As for the givers: "We feel the national associations need more help from the police," said Velappan.

"These cases are a criminal matter and it should be the police who handle it," he added, citing Singapore's approach as a role model.

But there is only so much the AFC can do about the root causes of match-fixing - low wages for players and officials and the region's love affair with gambling.

Asia's undeniable enthusiasm for the beautiful game has yet to translate into financial success.

While the cream of England's Premier League won't put on their boots for less than \$A63,120 a week, professionals in Singapore - one of the region's more well-to-do leagues - take home less than \$A4,730 a month.

That leaves players and officials vulnerable to bookie paymasters who have no shortage of ready cash.

Tippett blows it as Spirit held by Catlin

By Krystyna Rudzki

Banished Northern Spirit player-coach Graham Arnold was furious after his side was denied a penalty in the dying seconds of a frustrating goal-less national soccer league draw against Newcastle at North Sydney Oval on Friday night.

An injured Arnold who had to watch the game from the stands as he was prevented from sitting on the bench through suspension, watched the Spirit fail to turn possession into goals in a frustrating night for the 13,000 crowd.

Like fellow player-coach Sydney United's David Mitchell's outburst at referees last week, Arnold said: "I've had a gutful."

Spirit striker Mathew Langdon was denied

what seemed to be a certain penalty by referee Geoff Tippett who was lagging 30 metres behind play, after a crude challenge from behind by Newcastle substitute Chris Tancheski on Matthew Langdon.

"My boy said the ref told him 'I haven't trained for four weeks, I'm buggered'."

"Even Newcastle players said it was a penalty and I think that speaks for itself."

"If you haven't got the motivation to train yourself the standard is not going to get any better, I've seen some unbelievable decisions this year."

"I want to know who is judging their performances."

"I think (chief of referees) Greg Power should have a look at his referees."

The Spirit had dominated first half possession but Newcastle had the best chance to score through Souad Mulil and John Buonavoglia.

Clayton Zane, playing against his old club and desperate to add to his sole goal of the season last weekend, missed several golden chances throughout the game.

Spirit's Robbie Slater and Kresimir Marusic controlled the tempo

throughout the game.

Former South Hampton and Blackburn attacking midfielder Slater also showed his class with a couple of long range efforts on goals through a crowded Newcastle defence.

The Spirit was without seven regular players and will continue to be without Ian Cook for four weeks after he tore his hamstring in training last night.

"We've been plagued by setbacks during this year so this is just another one," said Arnold.

Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin was his side's hero, virtually



Clayton Zane: the former Breaker squandered numerous chances in his first match against his old club

keeping his side in the game as he pulled off a succession of excellent saves.

The Breakers defence was virtually under siege for the entire

game.

"We're not going to come here and throw ourselves into the fire," said Breakers coach Lee Sterrey.

"They have more

back-up than Burke and Wills, if you're not Jeff Fenech you have to counter punch and that's what we did, try and spring the trap on them."

**NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0**
Venue: North Sydney Oval
Man of the Match: Bobby Catlin NEWC

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Durakovic injury costs Olympic

By Bruce Campbell and AAP

Substitute Michael Brooks made a telling impact scoring the equaliser for Wollongong Wolves in its 1-1 draw with Sydney Olympic in the Ericsson Cup at Brandon Park on Sunday.

Sydney Olympic dominated much of a lively, exciting match but coach Branko Culina would have been

unhappy with the final result.

Equally so his colleague Nick Theodoropoulos who closed his dressing room doors for some time after the match.

The home side started the round in 12th spot and eight points adrift of sixth spot and for them the draw was not a good result.

Wollongong wasted several chances and

were punished after Olympic skipper Brett Emerton gave the visitors the lead on 60 minutes.

Emerton was unmarked and scored from a downward header from Mark Brennan's corner.

The goal led to Olympic supporters behind the Wollongong goal throwing three flares onto the ground and the match was held up for two minutes due to billowing smoke and ten Olympic fans were ejected from the ground.

Aside from Jason

Culina with two fine shots well saved by Wollongong keeper Les Pogliacomi, the Wolves defence did a good job blotting out the Olympic strikers.

Olympic's Pablo Cardozo, the NSL's leading scorer, did not have a worthwhile shot in the entire game.

Meanwhile Brooks, who with Fijian international Esala Masi, came on in the 71st minute turned the game for Wollongong.

With only his second touch Brooks might have equalised but volleyed over the bar.

But on 76 minutes,

Brooks found space inside the Olympic penalty box, used neat control from a David Huxley cross and scored with a low shot into the bottom corner.

"When you're 1-nil down you look to the subs to give the side a bit of spark and it was good to be able to do that," Brooks said.

"We definitely deserved something out of this game and it was good to just score."

"I might have only played 20 odd minutes but hopefully I can earn a starting spot next week."

Brooks's chance of getting back into the first eleven may well hinge on how his coach views the several chances he squandered, in particular one that he skied over the bar just minutes after scoring.

At that time Wollongong were rampant and a second goal would have sealed the game.

Wollongong created several more chances than Olympic but were again let down with a lack of finishing.

Ray Younis went close with a first half

header and hardworking midfielder Noel Spencer also had a shot well saved by Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos in the 36th minute.

In the 52nd minute young midfielder Paul Reid also wasted a great chance heading wide from just a few metres out.

Culina said after the match that he would have been happy to come down to Brandon Park and settle for a draw but felt that after the game it was a case of two points thrown away.

His side looked unsettled for a time after the break when sweeper Mehmet Durakovic was replaced with a hamstring injury.

Durakovic will be out for several weeks.

His place in the backline was taken by switching Milan Blagojevic from midfield and that necessary change robbed the Olympic side of any guile it may have possessed.

On a positive note Olyroo skipper Brett Emerton had an at

times superb game and went on several exciting raids down the right side.

But lack of option often forced him wide.

Emerton's headed goal was a copybook job for the hundreds of young fans at the match but it was a late Christmas gift presented by a sloppy Wollongong defence which clearly missed the suspended Robbie Stanton.

Emerton will rarely get an easier NSL goal and it seemed to fire up his confidence at a time when Olympic should have bottled up the match.

Again, lack of guile saw them leave spaces in midfield and it was just such an instance which saw Brooks stroll through to pounce on the opportunity to score his goal.

That would have put some cheer on the Wolves board, obviously concerned at an expensive import on a two year contract and yet unable to command a regular place in a side struggling to stay in touch with the middle of the table.

Injury ravaged Strikers hit Adelaide

By Steven Smith

Brisbane Strikers kept their national soccer league finals hopes alive with a hard fought 2-1 win over the Adelaide Sharks at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.

After a scoreless first half in which the honours were even, the Strikers rode home on the back of second-half goals by rookie midfielder Des Hughes and frontman Stu McLaren.

Hughes broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute, slotting home from close range after a storm hit the ground at the start of the second half.

Substitute Wayne Knipe, who came on for injured defender Steve Laybutt, did the early work, firing in a perfect cross from the right for Socceroo midfielder Kasey Wehrman.

Wehrman, who started up front instead of his normal

midfield role, nodded on for youngster Jade North, who headed down in the path for Hughes to slam home.

The Strikers went 2-0 up eight minutes later when McLaren struck a thundering left foot shot from 25 metres next to the upright, completely deceiving a stunned Adelaide defence including goalkeeper Nathan Wildy. With five minutes remaining, Adelaide struck back to set up a thrilling finish when midfielder Corey Artone produced another sizzling goal from more than 30 metres which just managed to beat the outstretched hand of Strikers keeper Clint Bolton.

The Strikers clung on desperately in the final seconds as the visitors pushed men forward searching for the

equaliser.

The win was a valuable three points for the Strikers who started the game just four points out of the top six in 10th position at the halfway mark of the season and only a point behind Adelaide. The Strikers had the majority of possession and marginally the better of the chances in the first half but failed on too many occasions to break down the stiff Sharks defence.

Adelaide started in blistering fashion with striker Derek Poimer missing two close chances in the opening eight minutes.

Poimer had his first shot on goal smothered by defender Glen Gwynne and then failed to put away a simple chance from close range after received a perfect cross from right-flanker Alex Castro.

The Strikers, who were missing five of their regular players through injury and suspension, weathered the early barrage from the visitors before dominating until the halftime interval.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 (Hughes 73, McLaren 81)
ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Artone 85)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Man of the Match: Kasey Wehrman BRIS

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER

Ericsson Cup Round 15: 15-17 January
Friday 15 January

Newcastle Breakers v Brisbane Strikers
Breakers Stadium 8.00pm
Northern Spirit v Marconi Fairfield
North Sydney Oval 7.30pm

Sunday 17 January

Carlton v Melbourne Knights
Optus Oval 5.00pm
Gippsland Falcons v Canberra Cosmos
Mobil Park 7.00pm
Adelaide Sharks v Sydney United
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm
Sydney Olympic v Adelaide City
Belmore Sportsground 6.30pm
Perth Glory v Wollongong Wolves
Perth Oval 5.00pm

Bye: South Melbourne

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Strange fumes at 'amateur' pitch

By Alan Clark

Visiting Perth Glory Bernd Stange was disappointed by the state of the Knights Stadium pitch in his first trip to Melbourne this season, but sanguine about the 1-1 draw, despite coming into the match red-hot favourites after demolishing Carlton 3-0 last week.

"We are very happy we are in top six at this moment," he said.

"It is a great success for Perth, for the marketing, for 17,000 crowd, and that's why it's not so important that we have a draw here, or we lose in Newcastle.

"For us, it's important that we go our way, and that we come into Grand Final.

"This team is not able to hold top position over the season - we are not strong enough against the teams from the eastern states.

"They have youth teams, they have reserve teams - we have nothing in Perth."

The draw looked unlikely, as - despite a third

minute shock when Gareth Naven and Con Boutsianis combined only to be thwarted at the last by a diving save at the feet of Boutsianis by Joe Didulica - Knights had the better moments, and faced only ten men for the last twenty playing minutes following Garcia's dismissal for his second yellow card offence in the 74th minute.

The on-park action began to heat up midway through the first half.

In what was a trying day for players and officials because of the temperature - hovering around 37C all match, and so more suitable for a quiet lie down rather than a football match - the action switched from end to end.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Kelic 22)
PERTH GLORY 1 (Despotovski 52)
Venue: Knights Park
Man of the Match: Danny Milosevic PRTH

John Markovski was first into action when he ran onto a pass from Bobby Despotovski sent in from the left diagonally to where Markovski met it wide on the right.

But it fell for Markovski's right foot - and so not his preferred for shooting - and he shot wide to Didulica's right.

Immediately after came the Knights attack that produced the opening goal.

Michael Reda - hard-working in the middle of the formation as always - found himself over a free-kick more than 25 metres out and slightly to the left of the goal Danny Milosevic defended.

Reda's driving shot was too hot for Milosevic to gather, Hrvoje Karl followed up and looked set to score but saw his shot blocked to where it fell for Ivan Kelic.

Kelic still had some

work to do to turn, managed to do so, then blasted home from close-in. Markovski sought to repeat the event and the outcome scarcely a minute later when he took a scorching free-kick from just outside the apex of the Knights' penalty-area, only to pick up the consolation prize of a corner after Didulica got his glove-tips to it and so diverted the ball over.

Ante Deak for Knights, and Boutsianis for Glory had opportunities within a minute of each other just before the break, but Deak's shot from distance was wide, and Boutsianis' was over.

In first-half stoppage time, Zelko Susa failed to convert a golden chance from close-in after Ivan Kelic had played a clever square-ball wide left for Ice Kutlesovski who then sent in

the cross. If the fans thought the action would slow down through the teams' mutual exhaustion, by ten minutes into the second half, they'd be compelled to reconsider.

What could have been a consolidating moment for Knights, turned into the leveller for Glory.

Karl was fed a perfectly weighted through ball in the 52nd minute, but found Milosevic quickly out at his feet.

When Milosevic sent the ball forward to start the counter-attack, it was moved quickly from Boutsianis to Paul Strudwick, and then to the feet of Despotovski just six metres out, and deadly from that range.

Markovski then Despotovski could have brought the small but vocal travelling support joy in the 68th minute, when - taking advantage of Ransford Banini's prone position following a challenge just seconds before - Markovski was played onside and faced only Didulica, but again on his less favoured right side.

Markovski's shot went wide to the left, only nano-seconds before Despotovski came rushing

into that position.

Garcia was given his marching orders 74 minutes in after being awarded his second yellow-card, this time for a clash with Redan.

The upset was on, as the game looked well balanced with both teams fully staffed, and now Knights had an extra player with still sixteen regulation time - and as it turned out an extra five minutes to be added.

Despite the best endeavours of Kelic who combined with substitute Alex Kiratzoglou four minutes later.

Kiratzoglou's shot from distance was well kept down, and took Milosevic two attempts to gather, the second at the feet of the on-rushing Karl.

Collina - another of the Knights' late substitutes - made a last gasp raid down the right side and set up Kelic, but the big striker's attempt to grab the three points with the winner was in vain.

Knights' coach Vid Horvat was seething after the game - not this time

at the officials - but influential members of the club who he said were putting unfair pressure on him and the players.

"We are on the way to form a great team for the future," he said.

"Just give me time and opportunity.

"But I'm very disappointed with a couple of the former committee.

"They are so nervous.

"They are so high-pressure. (Today) against maybe the best team in the league - I don't say we dominated - but we were the better team.

"We are a good team for the future.

"(It's) just I need some quiet time but I have no quiet time.

"I'm under high pressure from people.

"And it's not fair to me or to the players."

Horvat promises next week's Melbourne derby at Optus Oval against Carlton will see his team continue: "Carlton is one of the best teams right now in the league.

"It's the favourite team, but we will see."

Cosmos now twenty one games straight without a victory

A relieved South Melbourne coach Angie Postecoglou said bottom side Canberra had "left the door open" to allow his team a 3-1 win in Sunday's NSL game.

"The Cosmos was playing well and I don't think anyone would have begrudged them a point," he said.

"But we got a penalty and I was pretty happy with the way we played after that."

With the scores locked at 1-1 shortly after halftime, a penalty to veteran striker Paul Trimboli and a goal to Jason Polak gave the top team the expected result and handed Canberra its 13th loss from 13 games this season.

It was the worst possible start for new coach Tom

CANBERRA COSMOS 1 (Buljan)
SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Curcija 4, Trimboli pen 47 Polak)
Venue: Bruce Stadium
Man of the Match: Paul Trimboli SMEL

Sermanni at Canberra.

With three minutes gone South Melbourne's Olyroo striker, Michael Curcija intercepted a back pass from Ivan Zelic.

Sweeper Amarildo Miglietti made a despairing lunge, but Curcija skipped away to plant the ball passed an exposed goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic.

Canberra began to gain some composure and Peter Buljan laid a neat ball back to the incoming Leo Langone, who forced a one handed save from Michael Petkovic.

Then, at last came the moment Cosmos fans have waited more than 400 minutes for - a goal.

Norman Kelly set up Buljan who turned around a defender and cracked a shot home from just inside the penalty area.

Two minutes into the second half the game swung decisively to the visitors.

Steve Iosifidis spun to the ground after contact with Lindsay Wilson in the penalty area and although Wilson believed the ball had been played away when the incident occurred, referee

Brett Hugo had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Trimboli coolly put the kick away.

With the homside still reeling, South won a free kick on the edge of the area.

David Clarkson set up Polack who scored with the shot of the game.

The Cosmos have now not won a match since January last year and continue to set a new weekly NSL record with it now standing at 21 matches since a victory - and 16 straight defeats.

The corresponding fixture last year saw then new coach Rale Rasic grab a valuable point in a gutsy 1-1 win.

Since then Rasic has been sacked.



Peter Buljan: on the scoresheet for the winless Cosmos

Olyroo Sterjovski nabs class goal in romp

By Anthony Raineri

Sydney United gave its most emphatic performance of the national soccer league season to trounce Gippsland Falcons 4-0 at the Sydney United Sports Centre on Sunday.

A superb individual goal from Mile Sterjovski crowned the victory in which three 19-year-olds got their names on the coreshoot.

Goals by Joel Griffiths and Michael Santalab in the 6th and 25th minutes respectively asserted United's authority and Sterjovski's 50 yard dribble 12 minutes from time put the match beyond doubt.

Substitute Nathan Day then scored his first goal of the season in injury time.

United player-coach

David Mitchell said he was happy with United's display.

"We showed a lot of character," he said.

"We had two players suspended, a couple out injured and our playmaker Walter Ardone is in China negotiating a contract.

"I thought Michael Santalab and David Barrett were outstanding and the defence played very well."

Mitchell's decision to play three attackers instead of the conventional two was justified with Griffiths' effort after lead up work by Barrett and Santalab.

Santalab, an Australian Institute of Sport graduate, scored his

goal when he received a cut back pass on the left from Ante Moric and unleashed what seemed like a right foot cross into the penalty area.

A disbelieving Gippsland goalkeeper Chris Ball watched the ball curl around his defenders and into the net.

Gippsland coach Stuart Munro said he would prefer to dwell on the positives rather than the negatives.

"For a half-hour period in the second half, I thought we played as well as we have for a long time," the former Glasgow Rangers player said.

"That is until they

scored their third goal, which killed the match.

"We had quite a number of chances to score and if we had got a goal back at 2-0 we could have made a match of it.

"The discipline in our defence for the third and fourth goals was shocking."

Gippsland best chances fell to Lachlan Armstrong in the 16th, Sash Becvinovski in the 20th, Archie Thompson in the 40th and Will Hastie in the 87th.

But the well-organised United defence remained resolute.

Gippsland's nightmare culminated in the

81st minute expulsion of captain and former Welsh international Jeff Hopkins for a

crude tackle from behind on United substitute Danny Townsend. "I thought it was a

yellow card offence, not a red," coach Munro said.



Davie Barrett: Sydney United's star signing from Olympic this season

SYDNEY UNITED 4 (Griffiths 6, Santalab 25, Sterjovski 78, Day 90)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
Venue: Edensor Park
Man of the Match: David Barrett SUTD

Slogger Mori paves way for City

By Sam Lienert

Adelaide City striker Damian Mori was the hero of a hard-fought 2-0 win over third-placed Marconi in their national soccer league match at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Both sides wasted good chances in a scoreless opening half but Mori broke the deadlock with a header 10 minutes into the second half then helped set up the sealing goal for Mark Yates late in the game.

Marconi set up the best scoring chances early, Darren McDonald narrowly missing in the eighth minute with a strong 25-metre strike that had goalkeeper Jason Petkovic well beaten.

Petkovic was called on to make a number of strong saves during the first half

with Francis Awaritefe and Marcus Phillips looking dangerous up forward despite City dominating possession of the ball.

Marconi came dangerously close to scoring in the opening minutes of the second half when Adelaide skipper Alex Tobin and Petkovic collided while defending a well-placed cross, the ball ballooning just over the crossbar for a corner kick.

The home side finally managed to execute a forward move well in the 57th minute when Carl Veart found some space on the right side and sent in a perfect flat cross to Mori at the near post, who headed it home for the opening score.

The goal sparked Adelaide to increase the pressure and Mori had another chance to score a minute

later when he took on defender Domenic Longo at close range and got past him but was fouled for pushing Longo and not allowed a shot on goal.

Mori was instrumental in the Zebras second goal, he took a free kick from 30 metres and shaped to shoot but instead pushed a ball to fresh substitute Dino Menillo in the left corner, who centred it for a well-timed Yates header from the far post.

Adelaide coach Zoran Matic said his team had shown it was capable of beating any side in the league if it had the right attitude.

"We are on a par with any team if we are mentally right, it is a very fine line," Matic said. "We are going to Sydney Olympic next week, they are another strong team, it is going to be very tight. If they beat us they can jump over us."

Matic said Mori was also much more impressive tonight than he had been at the start of the



Damian Mori: higher work rate paved way for win over Marconi

season.

"We have been giving him some different roles, he is now playing a lot

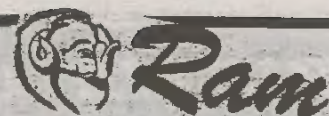
more, he's doing the work," he said. "He hasn't got the players around him that we used to have that

could cross the ball in and he could just finish it, he has to work a lot harder now."

ADELAIDE CITY 2 (Mori 56, Yates 81)
MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Damian Mori ADLC

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AUSTRALIA

ERICSSON CUP: Round 14

Friday 08 January

Northern Spirit 0 Newcastle Breakers 0

Venue: North Sydney Oval

Crowd: 13,206

Referee: G Tippet

Cautions: P Wearne (SPRT) 22, S Pryce (NEWC) 29

Saturday 09 January

Brisbane Strikers 2 Adelaide Sharks 1

Scorers: D Hughes 73, S McLaren 83 (BRIS)

C Artone 85 (ADSH)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Crowd: 5,010

Referee: C Diomas

Cautions: S McLaren (BRIS) 15, C Artone (ADSH) 45, A Duric (ADSH) 72

Sunday 10 January

Adelaide City 2 Marconi Fairfield 0

Scorers: D Mori 56, M Yates 81

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Crowd: 4,030

Referee: M Shield

Cautions: B Farah (MARC) 24, C Gibson (MARC) 38, A Costanzo (ADLC) 72, B Hassell (ADLC) 90

Sydney United 4 Gippsland Falcons 0

Scorers: J Griffiths 5, M Santalab 24, M Sterjovski 75, N Day 85 (SUTD)

Venue: Edensor Park

Crowd: 2,635

Referee: D Dwight

Cautions: P Di Iorio (GIPS) 68, N Day (SUTD) 78

Red Card: J Hopkins (GIPS) 77

Melbourne Knights 1 Perth Glory 1

Scorers: I Kelic 22 (MELK), B Despotovski 52 (PRTH)

Venue: Knights Park

Crowd: 3,905

Referee: M Breeze

Cautions: M Garcia (PRTH) 14, Z Susa (MELK) 34, G Naven (PRTH) 34, D Collina (MELK) 89, C Deans (PRTH) 89

Red Card: M Garcia (PRTH) 75

Canberra Cosmos 1 South Melbourne 3

Scorers: P Buljan 24 (CANB), M Curcija 3, P Trimboli 69, J Polak 71 (SMEL)

Venue: Bruce Stadium

Crowd: 2,940

Referee: B Hugo

Cautions: N Orlic (SMEL) 34, L Wilson (CANB) 69, D Arranz (CANB) 73, N Kelly (CANB) 75, R Liparoti (SMEL) 84

Wollongong Wolves 1 Sydney Olympic 1

Scorers: M Brooks 73 (WOLL), B Emerton 60 (SOLY)

Venue: Brandon Park

Crowd: 4,218

Referee: E Lennie

Cautions: D Huxley (WOLL) 61, A Ceccoli (WOLL) 62

Bye: Carlton

National Youth League

Southern Division

Thursday 7 January

Bulleen Inter 0 South Melbourne 0

Saturday 9 January

VIS 1 Gippsland Falcons 1

Scott McDonald Boris Ovcin

Sunday 10 January

Melbourne Knights 2 Carlton 4

Adis Kablar 2 Alex Josifovski 2

Tony Ouliaris

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home						away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 South Melbourne	14	6	1	0	17	7	3	2	2	11	10	30
2 Perth Glory	13	5	1	0	14	5	3	2	2	15	10	27
3 Marconi Fairfield	13	4	1	1	16	9	3	2	2	10	10	24
4 Adelaide City	13	5	2	1	17	5	2	0	3	3	6	23
5 Sydney United	13	6	1	1	16	4	1	1	4	6	11	23
6 Carlton	13	5	1	1	17	3	1	2	3	8	11	21
7 Sydney Olympic	13	5	1	0	13	3	1	2	4	7	14	21
8 Northern Spirit	13	3	2	1	5	4	3	0	4	6	10	20
9 Brisbane Strikers	13	3	3	2	11	10	2	1	2	7	6	19
10 Adelaide Sharks	13	3	2	1	16	7	2	0	5	6	15	17
11 Newcastle Breakers	13	3	1	2	10	9	1	2	4	5	12	15
12 Wollongong City	13	2	3	1	14	8	1	1	5	7	19	13
13 Melbourne Knights	13	1	1	5	6	10	2	1	3	6	10	11
14 Gippsland Falcons	13	2	1	3	2	6	1	1	5	4	17	11
15 Canberra Cosmos	13	0	0	8	4	18	0	0	5	3	13	0

David Grbac

Bulleen Inter v Albury Wodonga
(Round 4 match, postponed)

Albury Wodonga v Bye

Northern Division: Round Fourteen

Saturday 9 January

QAS 9 Wollongong Colts 0

Shane Smeltz 2

Owen Filewood 2

Russell Miner

Adam Webber

Chay Hews

Allan Cameron

Damien Volker

NSWIS 3

Sydney Utd Colts 0

Tallan Martin 2

Shane Cansdell-Sheriff

Northern Spirit 1

Newcastle Breakers 1

Adam Snyder

Paul Wheeler

Sydney United 8

Spirit Colts 0

Daniel Kukucka 3

Jason Kencevski 2

Joe Moric 2

Greg Collins

ACTAS 4

Olympic Academy 2

Chris Seitis

Damien Pizzano

Sunday 10 January

Marconi Colts 0

Marconi Fairfield 3

Joe Bruni

Mark Hagger

Victor Tomasevic

Bye v AIS

Ericsson Cup LEADING SCORERS

10 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
9 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
9 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
7 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
7 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
7 Brad MALONEY (MARC)
7 Damian MORI (ADL)
6 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
6 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
5 John GIBSON (ADSH)
5 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
5 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
4 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)

4 Peter BULJAN (CANB)
4 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
4 Alex DURIC (ADSH)
4 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
4 Ivan KELIC (MELK)
4 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
4 Derek POIMER (ADSH)
4 Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
4 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
4 Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
3 Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
3 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
3 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
3 Harry KARL (MELK)
3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
3 Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)

2 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
2 Walter ARDONE (SUTD)
2 Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)
2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)
2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
2 Brett EMERTON (SOLY)
2 Jeromy HARRIS (BRIS)
2 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
2 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
2 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)
2 Pan KIM (MARC)
2 Lubo LAPANSKY (CARL)
2 Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
2 Gary OWENS (NEWC)
2 Jason POLAK (SMEL)
2 Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
2 Paul REID (WOLL)
2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
2 Mike SMITH (MARC)
2 Archie THOMPSON (GIPS)
2 Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
2 Norman TOME (SOLY)
2 Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)
2 Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
2 Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
1 Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
1 Corey ARTONE (ADSH)
1 Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
1 Clayton BELL (GIPS)
1 Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
1 Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
1 Michael BROOKS (WOLL)
1 John BUONAVOGIA (NEWC)
1 Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
1 Christian CARE (MARC)
1 Nick CARLE (OLY)
1 Joe CALETA (SUTD)
1 Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
1 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
1 David CLARKON (SMEL)
1 Ian CROOK (SPRT)
1 Jason CULINA (SOLY)
1 Nathan DAY (SUTD)
1 Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Northern Spirit	13	11	1	1	29	8	34
2 QAS	13	9	1	3	42	15	28
3 Marconi Fairfield	13	7	5	1	44	12	26
4 Wollongong Wolves	10	8	1	1	27	6	25
5 Newcastle Breakers	12	7	4	1	24	10	25
6 AIS	11	7	3	1	34	10	24
7 NSWIS	11	7	2	2	27	7	23
8 Sydney Olympic	12	6	2	4	32	15	20
9 Marconi Fairfield Colts	13	5	1	7	15	22	16
10 Sydney United	13	4	3	6	23	22	15
11 Sydney United Colts	12	3	0	9	14	28	9
12 ACTAS	13	3	0	10	23	41	9
13 Northern Spirit Colts	13	2	1	10	14	56	7
14 Sydney Olympic Academy	14	0	3	11	9	45	3
15 Wollongong Wolves Colts	13	0	1	12	3	63	1

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 South Melbourne	12	8	2	2	23	9	26
2 VIS	10	7	3	0	23	8	24
3 Carlton	11	6	2	3	24	12	20
4 Gippsland Falcons	13	5	2	6	20	22	17
5 Melbourne Knights	11	3	2	6	17	23	11
6 Bulleen Inter Kings	10	3	2	5	7	16	11
7 Albury Wodonga	11	0	1	10	11	35	1

1 Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
1 Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)
1 Jeromy HARRIS (BRIS)
1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)
1 Danny HAY (PRTH)
1 Chay HEWS (BRIS)
1 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)
1 D HUGHES (BRIS)
1 Harry JAMES (CANB)
1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
1 Ante JURIC (SOLY)
1 Hrovje KARL (MELK)
1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)
1 Darren McDONALD (MARC)
1 Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
1 Esala MASI (WOLL)
1 Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
1 Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
1 David MITCHELL (SUTD)
1 Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)
1 J NORTH (BRIS)
1 Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
1 Adem PORIC (SPRT)
1 Joel PORTER (ADSH)
1 Joe RAHJER (MELK)
1 Michael REDA (WOLL)
1 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
1 Michael SANTALAB (SUTD)
1 Robert SHANNON (NEWC)
1 Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
1 Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
1 Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
1 Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
1 Zelko SUSA (MELK)
1 Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
1 Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
1 Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
1 Carl VEART (ADLC)
1 Daniel WATKINS (SPRT)
1 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
1 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
1 Mark YATES (ADLC)
1 Clayton ZANE (SPRT)
1 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)

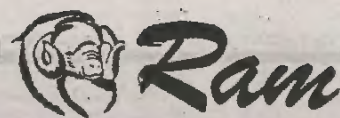


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SCOREBOARD

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RAM SPORTS

ENGLAND

Monday 04 January

FA CUP

Round 3 (II denotes second division side)
Preston (II) 2 Arsenal 4

Friday 08 January

DIVISION I

Tranmere 1 Wolverhampton 2

Saturday 09 January

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 0 Liverpool 0
Blackburn Rovers 1 Leeds United 0
Coventry City 4 Nottingham Forest 0
Everton 0 Leicester City 0
Middlesbrough 0 Aston Villa 0
Newcastle United 0 Chelsea 1
Sheffield Wednesday 0 Tottenham Hotspur 0
Southampton 3 Charlton Athletic 1
Wimbledon 2 Derby County 1

Playing Sunday:

Manchester United 4 West Ham United 1

DIVISION I

Birmingham 1 Port Vale 0
Crewe 3 Norwich 2
Huddersfield 2 Bury 2
Ipswich 0 Grimsby 1
Oxford 0 Bristol City 0
Queens Park Rangers 2 Sunderland 2
Stockport 1 Bradford 2
Swindon 2 Sheffield United 2
Watford 0 Portsmouth 0
West Bromwich 2 Barnsley 0

Played Friday:

Tranmere 1 Wolverhampton 2

DIVISION 2

Blackpool 0 Manchester City 0
Bristol Rovers 3 Burnley 4
Chesterfield 3 Colchester 1
Fulham 1 Macclesfield 0
Lincoln 2 Bournemouth 1
Luton 3 Wycombe 1
Millwall 3 Wigan 1
Notts County 0 Oldham 1

Reading 4 Wrexham 0
Stoke 3 Northampton 1
Walsall 2 Gillingham 1
York 0 Preston 1

DIVISION 3

Barnet 3 Darlington 0
Brighton 1 Carlisle 3
Cambridge 2 Torquay 0
Cardiff 4 Hartlepool 1
Exeter 4 Swansea 0
Halifax 2 Peterborough 2
Hull 1 Rotherham 0
Leyton Orient 2 Chester 2
Mansfield 3 Brentford 1
Rochdale 1 Plymouth 1
Scunthorpe 3 Shrewsbury 0
Southend 1 Scarborough 0

Premier league

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Chelsea	21	10	10	1	32	17	40
2. Aston Villa	21	11	7	3	31	20	40
3. Arsenal	21	9	9	3	22	11	36
4. Manchester United	20	9	8	3	39	23	35
5. Leeds United	21	8	9	4	34	20	33
6. Wimbledon	21	9	6	6	29	33	33
7. Liverpool	21	9	5	7	36	25	32
8. West Ham United	20	9	5	6	24	23	32
9. Middlesbrough	21	7	10	4	32	26	31
10. Leicester City	21	7	8	6	23	21	29
11. Derby County	21	6	10	5	21	20	28
12. Tottenham Hotspur	21	7	7	7	28	30	28
13. Newcastle United	21	6	6	9	24	29	24
14. Everton	21	5	9	7	13	21	24
15. Sheffield Wednesday	21	6	5	10	21	22	23
16. Blackburn Rovers	21	5	6	10	21	28	21
17. Coventry City	21	5	5	11	20	29	20
18. Southampton	21	4	5	12	19	39	17
19. Charlton Athletic	21	3	7	11	24	34	16
20. Nottingham Forest	21	2	7	12	18	40	13

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sunderland	27	16	9	2	57	18	57
2. Birmingham	27	14	6	7	43	26	48
3. Ipswich	27	14	6	7	36	17	48
4. Bradford	26	14	5	7	46	28	47
5. Watford	27	12	9	6	44	36	45
6. Grimsby	27	13	5	9	32	29	44
7. Bolton	25	11	10	4	46	32	43
8. Huddersfield	27	12	6	9	40	44	42
9. West Bromwich	27	12	5	10	49	43	41

10. Norwich	26	11	8	7	42	36	41
11. Wolverhampton	27	11	7	9	37	28	40
12. Sheffield United	27	10	8	9	41	44	38
13. Barnsley	27	9	9	9	37	35	36
14. Crystal Palace	25	9	7	9	37	41	34
15. Swindon	27	8	7	12	38	45	31
16. Tranmere Rovers	27	6	12	9	33	39	30
17. Queens Park Rangers	27	8	6	13	30	37	30
18. Stockport	27	6	11	10	31	35	29
19. Bury	27	7	8	12	25	37	29
20. Portsmouth	27	6	8	13	34	44	26
21. Oxford	27	6	7	14	29	50	25
22. Port Vale	27	7	4	16	29	51	25
23. Bristol City	27	5	9	13	37	54	24
24. Crewe	27	5	6	16	30	54	21

FRANCE

French League Cup first round

(Roman numerals in brackets denote division of non-championship sides):

Metz 1	Nantes 0
Paris St Germain 1	Saint-Etienne (II) 0
Red Star (II) 1	Nice (II) 1
after extra time. 1-1 after 90 mins.	
Nice win 4-2 penalties	
Sochaux 1	Bastia 0 a.e.t.
Le Havre 1	Girondins Bordeaux 0
Lorient 1	Chateauroux (II) 2
Valence (II) 0	Toulouse 0 a.e.t.
Toulouse win 4-2 on penalties	
Monaco 1	Caen (II) 0
Niort (II) 0	AJ Auxerre 1
Laval (II) 0	Rennes 1
En Avant Guingamp (II) 0	Amiens (II) 1
Cannes (II) 0	Lhans-Cuisseaux (III) 1

ITALY

Wednesday 06 January

Bari 2	Perugia 1
Bologna 0	Lazio 1
Fiorentina 1	Sampdoria 0
Parma 1	Inter Milan 0

AS Roma 2	Piacenza 2
Salernitana 1	Cagliari 3
Udinese 2	Vicenza 1
Venezia v Empoli abandoned due to fog after 61 minutes. The score at the time was 0-0	
AC Milan 1	Juventus 1

Sunday 10 January

Cagliari 4	AS Roma 3
Empoli 1	AC Milan 1
Inter Milan 6	Venezia 2
Juventus 1	Bari 1
Perugia 1	Udinese 3
Piacenza 3	Parma 6
Sampdoria 1	Bologna 1
Vicenza 1	Salernitana 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Parma	16	9	5	2	30	12	32
2. Fiorentina	15	10	2	3	27	14	32
3. Inter Milan	16	8	3	5	32	23	27
4. AC Milan	16	7	6	3	23	18	27
5. Lazio	15	7	5	3	28	18	26
6. AS Roma	16	6	6	4	33	24	24
7. Juventus	16	6	5	5	17	16	23
8. Bologna	16	5	7	4	18	13	22
9. Bari	16	4	10	2	19	17	22
10. Udinese	16	4	6	6	21	26	22
11. Cagliari	16	6	2	8	26	24	20
12. Perugia	16	5	4	7	22	29	19
13. Piacenza	16	4	5	7	23	26	17
14. Vicenza	16	3	6	7	10	19	15
15. Sampdoria	16	3	6	7	15	29	15
16. Empoli	15	3	6	6	13	21	13
17. Salernitana	16	3	3	10	12	27	12
18. Venezia	15	2	5	8	7	20	11

Note: Empoli deducted two points for attempted match fixing

NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 09 January

PREMIER DIVISION

Ballymena United 2	Portadown 2
Cliftonville 0	Glenrath 0
Coleraine 2	Linfield 1
Crusaders 3	Newry 2
Glenavon 6	Omagh Town 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Glentoran	24	15	5	4	46	25	50
2. Crusaders	24	14	5	5	35	20	47
3. Linfield	24	12	8	4	39	21	44
4. Newry	23	10	7	6	37	34	37
5. Ballymena	24	9	6	9	24	23	33
6. Glenavon	23	8	6	9	30	23	30
7. Cliftonville	24	5	10	9	22	30	25
8. Coleraine	24	6	6	12	23	37	24
9. Portadown	23	4	7	12	22	30	19
10. Omagh Town	23	3	4	16	15	50	13

PORTUGAL

Sunday 10 January

Selected Portuguese Cup fourth round results today (figure in brackets denotes division):

Benfica 4	Academica 1
Estrela Amadora 0	Farense 0
Campomaiorense (I) 3	Braga (I) 2
Uniao Leiria (I) 2	Rio Ave (I) 1
Gil Vicente (2) 3	Sporting (I) 2
Guimaraes (I) 2	Moreirense (2) 3
Covilha (2) 2	Salgueiros (I) 4
Porto (I) 4	Famalicao (2) 2
Alverca (I) 2	Camara de Lobos (2) 1
Juventude Evora (2) 1	Boavista (I) 3
Torreense (2) 2	Chaves (I) 0
Fafe (2) 1	Vitoria de Setubal (I) 2
Beira Mar (I) 4	Futebol Benfica (3) 2
Estrela Vendas Novas (3) 1	Maritimo (I) 3
Scottish F.A. Cup third round draw	
(II denotes second division, III third, ML minor league)	

SCOTLAND

Queen's Park (III) or Clachnacuddin (ML) v Dundee United
Greenock Morton (I) v Dundee
Ayr United (I) v Kilmarnock
Stranraer (I) v East Stirling (III)
Falkirk (I) v Huntly (ML)
Keith (ML) or Brechin (III) v Albion (III)
Hibernian (I) v Montrose (III) or Stirling (II)

Motherwell v Hearts
Partick (II) v Dunfermline
St Johnstone v Forfar (II) or East Fife (II)
Raith (I) v Spartans (ML) or Clyde (II)
St Mirren (I) v Hamilton (I)
Celtic v Airdrieonians (I)
Rangers v Whitehill (ML) or Stenhousemuir (III)
Clydebank (I) v Queen of the South (II) or Ross County (III)
Aberdeen v Livingston (II)
Ties to be played the weekend of January 23

Wednesday 06 January

SCOTTISH CUP

Second round replay match on Wednesday:
Clyde 5 Spartans 0

DIVISION 1

Airdrieonians v Greenock Morton postponed
Clydebank v Ayr postponed
Raith 2 Falkirk 1
St Mirren 1 Hibernian 2
Stranraer 2 Hamilton 2

Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hibernian	23	16	5	2	51	24	53
2. Falkirk	23	12	6	5	38	23	42
3. Ayr	22	12	3	7	45	28	39
4. Airdrieonians	22	11	5	6	30	24	38
5. St Mirren	23	8	6	9	18	27	30
6. Clydebank	21	6	8	7	20	25	26
7. Hamilton	22	5	9	8	27	34	24
8. Raith	23	5	8	10	24	36	23
9. Greenock Morton	22	5	6	11	21	26	21
10. Stranraer	23	3	2	18	22	49	11

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Livingston	20	13	6	1	38	21	45
2. Inverness	21	12	5	4	43	31	41
3. Clyde	20	9	6	5	28	20	33
4. Stirling	20	9	3	8	31	33	30
5. Partick	20	9	2	9	21	22	29
6. Alloa	20	8	4	8	44	31	28
7. Arbroath	20	7	4	9	19	26	25
8. East Fife	20	6	4	10	26	39	22
9. Queen of the South	20	3	6	11	20	29	15
10. Forfar	19	2	4	13	19	37	10

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Ross County	20	15	1	4	50	20	46

2. Brechin	19	11	6	2	24	13	39
3. Stenhousemuir	20	10	4	6	32	21	34
4. Albion	21	9	3	9	27	38	30
5. Dumbarton	19	8	4	7	25	21	28
6. Berwick	19	5	9	5	23	23	24
7. Queen's Park	20	5	6	9	23	25	21
8. East Stirling	20	3	9	8	24	27	18
9. Cowdenbeath	20	5	3	12	20	36	18
10. Montrose	20	3	5	12	20	44	14

DIVISION 2

Forfar v Clyde postponed
Inverness C. Thistle 2 Arbroath 0
Livingston v East Fife postponed
Partick v Alloa postponed

DIVISION 3

Cowdenbeath v Brechin postponed
East Stirling v Dumbarton postponed
Montrose 2 Albion 3
Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir postponed
Football Association (FA) Cup second round (II denotes second division, III third, ML minor league)
Queen of the South (II) 1 Ross County (III) 3
Queen's Park (III) v Clachnacuddin (ML) postponed
FA Cup second round replays
Brechin (III) 3 Keith (ML) 1
East Fife (II) 0 Forfar (II) 1
Stenhousemuir (III) 2 Whitehill (ML) 0

SPAIN

Wednesday 06 January

FIRST DIVISION

Real Madrid 3	Salamanca 1
Saturday 09 January	
Barcelona 4	Atheletic Bilbao 2

WALES

LEAGUE OF WALES

Friday 08 January

Budegwoi Soccer Club

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND 7-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 January 1999

DAY 1: Round Robin, kick off 9.00am

DAY 2: Elimination Finals for all teams

- ◆ *half fields*
- ◆ *10 players per team*
- ◆ *unlimited interchange*
- ◆ *nomination fee \$150 per team*
- ◆ *parking & camping area*
- ◆ *BBQ facilities*
- ◆ *Entertainment Saturday & Sunday nights*
- ◆ *Full bar facilities i.e. TAB, Keno, Pokies*
- ◆ *Malaysian & Chinese restaurant*
- ◆ *Cash Prizes & Trophies*

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS

1. By filling out and returning the Nomination Form, teams have indicated that they shall abide by the rules of the competition.
2. It should be noted that Budegwoi Soccer Club accept NO responsibility for injuries to players as a result of taking part in the Tournament. It is advisable that all players be registered with an affiliated club or take out personal insurance.
3. Team Representatives must check in at the OFFICIAL TABLE on arrival at the grounds by 7.30am on Saturday 23rd January.
4. The Tournament is structured for 32 teams. Teams will then be divided by ballot into groups of 4 teams at 8.00am. First round will comprise three games. At approximately 12.30pm a re-balloting will take place for a further round of three games. All teams will play a minimum of 6 games on Day 1.
5. Games will be of 2 x 12 minute halves with a straight turn around at half time. All games will start and finish by the central timekeepers siren as will the half time stoppages.
6. Teams may consist of up to 10 players (male or female), seven of whom will be on the field at one time. There is unlimited interchange.
7. The Referee's decision shall be final on all points of the laws of the Game.
8. All players of individual teams must be attired in the same shirt.
9. Each team is expected to supply team members to act as referees throughout the Tournament. A draw will be provided for each team for their matches and refereeing responsibilities. Teams failing to provide a referee for an allotted game will be deducted two (2) competition points from their tournament score tally.
10. Competition scoring shall be as follows
 - * Win 3 points
 - * Score Draw 2 points
 - * Scoreless Draw 1 point
 - * Loss 0 point

**\$5,000 in
PRIZE
MONEY**

TEAM NOMINATION FORM

Team Name:

Team Contact:

Address:

Phone: (H) (W) Fax:

Team Colours: